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5th Edition

by Karl Samson

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About the Author

Karl Samson lives in Oregon, where he spends his time juggling his obsessions with traveling, gardening, outdoor sports, and wine. Each winter, to dry out his webbed feet, he flees the soggy Northwest to update the *Frommer's Arizona* guide. However, he always looks forward to his return to the land of good espresso. Karl is also the author of *Frommer's Oregon,* as well as *Frommer's Washington State* and *Frommer's Seattle.*

An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

Frommer's Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **seven feature icons** that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

Finds	Special finds—those places only insiders know about
Fun Fact	Fun facts—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
Kids	Best bets for kids and advice for the whole family
Moments	Special moments—those experiences that memories are made of
Overrated	Places or experiences not worth your time or money
Tips	Insider tips—great ways to save time and money
Value	Great values—where to get the best deals

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE American Express	DISC Discover	V Visa
DC Diners Club	MC MasterCard	

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Now that you have the guidebook to a great trip, visit our website at **www.frommers.com** for travel information on more than 3,600 destinations. With features updated regularly, we give you instant access to the most current trip-planning information available. At Frommers.com, you'll also find the best prices on airfares, accommodations, and car rentals—and you can even book travel online through our travel booking partners. At Frommers.com, you'll also find the following:

- Online updates to our most popular guidebooks
- Vacation sweepstakes and contest giveaways
- Newsletter highlighting the hottest travel trends
- Online travel message boards with featured travel discussions

1

The Best of Portland

Situated at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, Portland, Oregon, with a metropolitan population of roughly two million, is a city of discreet charms. That it claims a rose garden as one of its biggest attractions should give you an idea of just how laid-back this city is. Sure, Portlanders are just as attached to their cellphones and laptops as residents of other urban areas, but this is the City of Roses, and people still take time to stop and smell the flowers. Spend much time here, and you, too, will likely feel the leisurely pace seeping into your bones.

While nearby Seattle, Washington, has zoomed into the national consciousness, Portland has, until recently, managed to dodge the limelight and the problems that come with skyrocketing popularity. For many years now Portland has looked upon itself as a small, accessible city, vaguely European in character. *Clean* and *friendly* are the two most common descriptors of the city. However, as word has spread about overcrowding in Seattle, people looking for the good life and affordable housing have turned to Portland, which is now experiencing the same sort of rapid growth that Seattle began going through more than a decade ago.

Portland does not have any major tourist sights. Instead, it is a city of quiet charms that must be searched for and savored—the shade of the stately elms in the South Park Blocks, the tranquillity of the Japanese Garden, the view from the grounds of Pittock Mansion, the miles of hiking trails in Forest Park. Sure, there's a good art museum and a world-class science museum, but these are not nearly as important to the locals as the many parks and public gardens. Not only does Portland claim beautiful rose gardens, the most authentic Japanese Garden in North America, and the largest classical Chinese garden in the country, but it also has the world's smallest city park and one of the largest forested urban parks in the country.

The city is also the nation's microbrew capital. Espresso may be the beverage that gets this town going in the morning, but it is microbrewed beer that helps the city maintain its mellow character.

Portland is home to so many brewpubs that the city has been nicknamed Munich on the Willamette. Wine bars are also popular hangouts, which shouldn't come as a surprise, considering how close the city is to the Willamette Valley wine country.

Portland itself may be short on things for visitors to do, but the city's surroundings certainly are not. Within a 1½- to 2-hour drive from Portland, you can be strolling a Pacific Ocean beach, walking beside a waterfall in the Columbia Gorge, hiking on Mount Hood (a dormant volcano as picture perfect as Mt. Fuji), driving through the Mount St. Helens blast zone, or sampling world-class pinot noirs in the Oregon wine country. It is this proximity to the outdoors that makes Portland a great city to use as a base for exploring some of the best of the Northwest.

1 The Most Unforgettable Travel Experiences

- **Strolling the Grounds of the Japanese Garden:** This is the best Japanese garden in the United States, perhaps the best anywhere outside of Japan. My favorite time to visit is in June when the Japanese irises are in bloom. The city has no better stress-reducer. See p. 91.
- **Beer Sampling at Brewpubs:** They may not have invented beer here in Portland, but they certainly have turned it into an art form. Whether you're looking for a cozy corner pub or an upscale taproom, you'll find a brewpub where you can feel comfortable sampling local brewmeisters' concoctions. See "Brewpubs" in chapter 9.
- **Driving and Hiking in the Gorge:** No matter what time of year, the drive up the Columbia Gorge is spectacular. Once you arrive, get out of your car and take one of the dozens of easily accessible hiking trails throughout the gorge. If you've got time to spare, take the scenic highway; if not, take I-84. On either route, be sure to pull off at Multnomah Falls. For an alternative point of view, drive the Washington side of the river and stop to hike to the top of Beacon Rock. See section 1 of chapter 10, "Side Trips from Portland."
- **Concerts at the Schnitz:** The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, home to the Oregon Symphony, is a restored 1920s movie palace and is the city's most impressive place to attend a performance. Even if the show doesn't meet your expectations, you can enjoy the classic architectural details. See p. 115.

- **Summertime Concerts at the Oregon Zoo:** Summertime in Portland means partying with the pachyderms. Throughout the summer, you can catch live music at the zoo's amphitheater. Musical styles include blues, rock, bluegrass, folk, Celtic, and jazz. Often, for just the price of zoo admission, you can catch the concert and tour the zoo (if you arrive early enough). Picnics are encouraged, but no alcohol is allowed into the zoo (however, beer and wine are on sale during concerts). See p. 117.
- **Summer Festivals at Waterfront Park:** Each summer, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, which stretches along the Willamette River in downtown Portland, becomes the staging ground for everything from Rose Festival events to the Oregon Brewers Festival. Some festivals are free and some have small cover charges, but all are lots of fun. See p. 85.
- **Wine Tasting in the Nearby Wine Country:** Within less than an hour's drive of Portland are dozens of wineries that are open to the public on a regular basis. Most of these wineries specialize in pinot noir and pinot gris, and many produce wines of superior quality. The chance to spend an afternoon wine tasting is one of the best reasons to visit Portland. See p. 139.

2 The Best Splurge Hotels

- **Avalon Hotel & Spa** (0455 SW Hamilton Court; ✆ **888/556-4402** or 503/802-5800; www.avalonhotelandspa.com): Located just south of downtown Portland, along a wooded section of the Willamette River waterfront, the Avalon is not only one of the most luxurious hotels in the city, but it also has its own spa and boasts stylishly modern decor. See p. 48.
- **The Benson** (309 SW Broadway; ✆ **888/523-6766** or 503/228-2000; www.bensonhotel.com): With its walnut paneling, Italian marble, and crystal chandeliers, The Benson is the pinnacle of 19th-century elegance. Order a snifter of brandy, sink into one of the chairs by the fireplace, and conjure up your past life as a railroad baron. In your room, you'll sleep on a Tempur-Pedic bed. See p. 51.
- **Hotel Monaco** (506 SW Washington St.; ✆ **888/207-2201** or 503/222-0001; www.Monaco-portland.com): With a delightfully theatrical room decor, a good restaurant, free evening wine, and an artistic aesthetic, this hotel has everything necessary to make a visit to Portland unforgettable. See p. 50.

- **Hotel Vintage Plaza** (422 SW Broadway; ✆ **800/243-0555** or 503/228-1212; www.vintageplaza.com): If you're looking for the most romantic room in town, book a starlight room at the Vintage Plaza. Located on one of the hotel's upper floors, these romantic rooms are basically solariums with curving walls of glass that let you lie in bed and gaze up at the stars. Just be sure to come in the summer when the sky is clear. See p. 52.
- **RiverPlace Hotel** (1510 SW Harbor Way; ✆ **800/227-1333** or 503/228-3233; www.riverplacehotel.com): Although it's only a few blocks from downtown businesses, this boutique hotel wedged between the Willamette River and Tom McCall Riverfront Park feels a world away from the city. In summer the park hosts countless festivals, and if you book the right room, you can have a box seat for a concert in the park. See p. 50.

3 The Best Moderately Priced Hotels

- **Ace Hotel** (1022 SW Stark St.; ✆ **503/228-2277;** www.acehotel.com/portland): You don't actually have to be young and hip to stay at this hotel, but a youthful attitude certainly helps. The funky industrial-salvage decor makes this the most distinctive hotel in Portland, and if you opt for a room with a shared bath, the rates are the best in downtown. See p. 53.
- **Hotel Fifty** (50 SW Morrison; ✆ **877/505-7220** or 503/221-0711; www.hotelfifty.com): Although it is totally unassuming from the outside, the Four Points, with its contemporary interior decor, is a surprisingly stylish and economically priced hotel. Waterfront Park and the Willamette River are just across the street, so you've got a great deal (if you can reserve far enough in advance to get a low rate). See p. 52.
- **Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland** (701 SE Columbia Shores Blvd., Vancouver; ✆ **800/CALL-HOME** or 360/750-1100; www.homewoodsuites.com): Although it is located in Vancouver, Washington, 20 minutes from downtown Portland, this hotel is a good bet for families. Guest rooms are more like apartments, and rates include breakfast and a big spread of evening appetizers. A 5-mile-long paved riverside trail is conveniently located across the street. See p. 58.
- **Inn @ Northrup Station** (2025 NW Northrup St.; ✆ **800/224-1180** or 503/224-0543; www.northrupstation.com): If you're short on cash but want to stay someplace that reflects your taste for contemporary styling, then the Inn @ Northrup

Station should be your first choice in town. Not only is this place cool and colorful, but many great restaurants and bars are also within just a few blocks. See p. 54.

- **Jupiter Hotel** (800 E. Burnside St.; ✆ **877/800-0004** or 503/230-9200; www.jupiterhotel.com): This renovated motel in inner southeast Portland is one of the city's hotels of choice for cash-strapped art-school hipsters when they come to Portland to check out the nightlife scene. To make the scene at one of the city's hippest nightclub's, hotel guests need only walk across the courtyard to the Doug Fir Lounge. See p. 57.
- **The Lakeshore Inn** (210 N. State St., Lake Oswego; ✆ **800/215-6431** or 503/636-9679; www.thelakeshoreinn.com): How about a waterfront motel in Portland's most prestigious suburb for under $90? Try the Lakeshore Inn, a small motel right on Lake Oswego with a swimming pool on a dock. The catch is that the hotel is 7 miles from downtown Portland. See p. 59.
- **McMenamins Edgefield** (2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale; ✆ **800/669-8610** or 503/669-8610; www.mcmenamins.com): What can you say about a hotel that's located in a renovated poor farm and has a brewery, winery, distillery, movie theater, and golf course? Cheers! At McMenamins Edgefield, on the eastern edge of the Portland metro area, a local brewpub empire has created one of the most unusual lodgings in the state. See p. 59. The affiliated **McMenamins Kennedy School,** 5736 NE 33rd Ave. (✆ **888/249-3983** or 503/249-3983; www.mcmenamins.com), is very similar and closer to downtown Portland. See p. 57.

4 The Most Unforgettable Dining Experiences

- **Bijou Café** (132 SW Third Ave.; ✆ **503/222-3187**): Organic coffee, eggs from free-range chickens, buckwheat pancakes, oyster hash, and brioche French toast are the sort of menu offerings that have made this downtown breakfast place a perennial favorite of Portlanders. See p. 65.
- **Chart House** (5700 SW Terwilliger Blvd.; ✆ **503/246-6963;** www.chart-house.com): The Chart House may be part of an upscale restaurant chain, but the view from the hillside setting south of downtown Portland just can't be beat. Down at the foot of the hill is the Willamette River, and off over the rooftops and treetops of Portland are Mount Hood and Mount St. Helens. See p. 70.

- **fenouil** (900 NW 11th Ave.; ✆ **503/525-2225;** www.fenouilinthepearl.com): This Pearl District French restaurant may be one of Portland's most expensive places to eat, but the palatial surroundings make dinner (or lunch) here such an enjoyable experience that you hardly notice that big bill on your credit card. See p. 66.
- **Higgins** (1239 SW Broadway; ✆ **503/222-9070;** www.higgins.ypguides.net): Chef Greg Higgins pushes the envelope of contemporary cuisine here at his eponymously named restaurant, but he also sprinkles the menu with plenty of familiar comfort foods. Sample some of Portland's best food in the formal dining room or in the casual back-room bar area. See p. 61.
- **Jake's Famous Crawfish** (401 SW 12th Ave.; ✆ **503/226-1419;** www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com): Get 'em while they're hot at Jake's, where crawfish are the stars of the menu. This classic seafood restaurant has been around for almost a century and serves truckloads of crawfish every year. Plenty of other good seafood dishes are on the menu as well. See p. 64.
- **Marina Fish House** (0425 SW Montgomery St.; ✆ **503/227-3474;** www.newportbay.com): The food at this restaurant may not be superlative, but the setting—floating in the Willamette River—certainly is. Walk down the long dock, take a seat on the patio, and have a front-row seat for the comings and goings of boats on the river. See p. 64.
- **Pok Pok** (3226 SE Division St.; ✆ **503/232-1387;** www.pokpokpdx.com): Over the years, I've spent a lot of time in Thailand, and I have never found a more authentic Thai restaurant this side of the Gulf of Siam. This is just the sort of place I've frequented on beaches all over Thailand. See p. 74.
- **Toro Bravo** (120 NE Russell St.; ✆ **503/281-4464;** www.torobravopdx.com): Wow! That's how I felt the first time I ate at this casual Spanish tapas restaurant. So impressed were my dinner companions that they began applauding the many laudable flavors that had passed across our table in the course of an evening. See p. 71.

5 The Best Things to Do for Free (or Almost)

- **Sunset from Council Crest:** Portland is a city backed by hills that reach 1,000 feet high, and the view from atop Council Crest is the finest in the city. From here you can see mounts

Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, and Hood. The view is particularly memorable at sunset. Bring a picnic.

- **Hanging Out at Powell's:** They don't call Powell's the City of Books for nothing. This bookstore, which sells both new and used books, is so big you have to get a map at the front door. No matter how much time I spend here, it's never enough. A large cafe makes it easy to while away the hours. See p. 109.
- **Free Rides on the Vintage Trolleys:** TriMet buses, MAX light-rail trolleys, and the Portland Streetcar are all free within a large area, mostly downtown, known as the Fareless Square. That alone should be enough to get you on some form of public transit while you're in town, but if you're really lucky, you might catch one of the vintage trolley cars. The trolleys don't climb any San Francisco–style hills, but they are still fun to ride. See p. 33.
- **People-Watching at Pioneer Courthouse Square:** This is the heart and soul of downtown Portland, and no matter what time of year or what the weather, people gather here. Grab a latte at the Starbucks and sit by the waterfall fountain. In summer, catch one of the frequent concerts here; at any time of year you might catch a rally, performance, or installation of some kind. Don't miss the *Weather Machine* show at noon. See chapter 6.
- **An Afternoon at the Portland Saturday Market:** This large arts-and-crafts market is an outdoor showcase for hundreds of the Northwest's creative artisans. You'll find fascinating one-of-a-kind clothes, jewelry, kitchenwares, musical instruments, and much, much more. The food stalls serve great fast food, too. See p. 113.
- **First Thursday Art Walk:** On the first Thursday of every month, Portland goes on an art binge. People get dressed up and go gallery-hopping from art opening to art opening. There are usually hors d'oeuvres and wine available, and lots of live music on the street. The galleries stay open until 9pm. See p. 108.
- **Stopping to Smell the Roses:** Portland is known as the City of Roses, and at the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park, you can find out why. This is a test garden for new varieties of roses, so you'll probably have to wait a few years before you can buy any of the beautiful roses you see here. See p. 90.

6 The Best Outdoor Activities

- **Kayaking Around Ross Island:** Seattle may be considered the sea-kayaking capital of the Northwest, but Portland's not a bad kayaking spot either. You can paddle on the Columbia or Willamette river, but my favorite easy paddle is around Ross Island in the Willamette River. You can even paddle past the submarine at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and pull out at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. See p. 99.
- **Mountain Biking Leif Erikson Drive:** Forest Park is one of the largest forested city parks in the country, and running its length is the unpaved Leif Erikson Road. The road is closed to cars and extends for 12 miles. Along the way you will catch occasional views of the Columbia River. This is a fairly easy ride, without any strenuous climbs. See p. 97.
- **Hiking Forest Park's Wildwood Trail:** Within Forest Park's boundaries are also some 75 miles of hiking trails. The Wildwood Trail stretches for nearly 30 miles, from one end of the park to the other. While you probably won't have time to hike the entire trail, choose from any one of the shorter loops. See p. 98.
- **Hiking and Skiing on Mount Hood:** Less than an hour from Portland, Mount Hood offers year-round skiing and hiking. Timberline Lodge, high on this dormant volcano's slopes, was built by the WPA during the Great Depression and is a showcase of craftsmanship. See section 1 of chapter 10, "Side Trips from Portland."
- **Picnicking at the Washington Park Arboretum:** Picnicking may not be a particularly strenuous outdoor activity, but an alfresco meal on a grassy hillside surrounded by rare and unusual trees sure is memorable. Before your picnic, you can work up an appetite by hiking some of the arboretum's 12 miles of trails. See p. 89.

7 The Best Activities for Families

- **Going Below Decks in a Real Submarine:** At the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), you can poke around inside the USS *Blueback,* a retired Navy submarine that was used in the filming of *The Hunt for Red October.* The sub is now permanently docked in the Willamette River outside the museum's back door. See p. 86.

- **Virtual Parachuting:** At the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, you and the kids can pretend to be smoke jumpers parachuting into the woods to put out a forest fire. The virtual parachute exhibit lets you strap into a harness and try to hit a video target on the floor. See p. 92.
- **Flying Over the Water:** Giant jet boats roar up the Willamette River from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to the thundering cascades of Willamette Falls in Oregon City. Along the way, you'll get a unique perspective on life in Portland. See p. 95.
- **Roller Skating at Oaks Park:** At the quaintly old-fashioned Oaks Park Amusement Center, you can roller skate to the accompaniment of a Wurlitzer organ. The skating rink here is the largest wood-floored rink in the West. You and the kids can also try out the thrill rides and arcades. See p. 94.
- **Riding the Rails in Washington Park:** At the Oregon Zoo, you not only can ponder the pachyderms and gaze at grizzlies, but you also can go for a ride on a scaled-down train that runs between the zoo and the International Rose Test Garden and the Japanese Garden. Near the end of the line with the gardens, you'll also find the Rose Garden Children's Park, a big, colorful playground. See p. 91.

2

Planning Your Trip to Portland

Planning your trip before you leave home can make all the difference between enjoying your vacation and wishing you'd stayed home. In fact, for many people, planning a trip is half the fun of going. If you're one of those people, then this chapter should prove useful.

1 Visitor Information

For information on Portland and the rest of Oregon, contact **Travel Portland,** 1000 SW Broadway, Suite 2300, Portland, OR 97205 (✆ **877/678-5263** or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com). While in town, visit their location in Pioneer Courthouse Square. An information booth is also located by the baggage-claim area at the Portland Airport.

You can get additional Portland information at the following websites: *Willamette Week* (**www.wweek.com**), Portland's arts-and-entertainment weekly, or the *Oregonian* (**www.oregonlive.com**), Portland's daily newspaper.

2 Entry Requirements

PASSPORTS

New regulations issued by the Department of Homeland Security now require virtually every air traveler entering the U.S. to show a passport. As of January 23, 2007, all persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda are required to present a valid passport. As of January 31, 2008, U.S. and Canadian citizens entering the U. S. at land and sea ports of entry from within the western hemisphere will need to present government-issued proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, along with a government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license. A passport is not required for U.S. or Canadian citizens entering by land or sea, but it is highly encouraged to carry one.

For information on how to get a passport, go to **"Passports"** in the **"Fast Facts"** section of the following chapter—the websites listed provide downloadable passport applications as well as the current fees for processing passport applications. For an up-to-date, country-by-country listing of passport requirements around the world, click on the "International Travel" tab at the top of the Web page of the U.S. State Department at **http://travel.state.gov**. International visitors can obtain a visa application at the same website (click the "Visas" tab). ***Note:*** Children are required to present a passport when entering the United States at airports. More information on obtaining a passport for a minor can be found at http://travel.state.gov.

VISAS

For specifics on how to get a visa, go to **"Visas"** in the **"Fast Facts"** section of the following chapter.

The U.S. State Department has a **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)** allowing citizens of the following countries (at press time) to enter the United States without a visa for stays of up to 90 days: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Canadian citizens may enter the United States without visas; however, they will need to show passports and proof of residence. ***Note:*** Any passport issued on or after October 26, 2006, by a VWP country must be an **e-Passport** for VWP travelers to be eligible to enter the U.S. without a visa. Citizens of these nations also need to present a round-trip air or cruise ticket upon arrival. E-Passports contain computer chips capable of storing biometric information, such as the required digital photograph of the holder. (You can identify an e-Passport by the symbol on the bottom center cover of your passport.) If your passport doesn't have this feature, you can still travel without a visa if it is a valid passport issued before October 26, 2005, and includes a machine-readable zone, or between October 26, 2005, and October 25, 2006, and includes a digital photograph. For more information, go to **www.travel.state.gov/visa**.

Citizens of all other countries must have (1) a valid passport that expires at least 6 months later than the scheduled end of their visit to the United States, and (2) a tourist visa, which may be obtained from any U.S. consulate.

As of January 2004, many international visitors traveling on visas to the United States will be photographed and fingerprinted on

arrival at Customs in airports and on cruise ships in a program created by the Department of Homeland Security called **US-VISIT.** Exempt from the extra scrutiny are visitors entering by land or those (mostly in Europe; p. 40) that don't require a visa for short-term visits. For more information, go to the Homeland Security website at **www.dhs.gov/dhspublic**.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Unless you're arriving from an area known to be suffering from an epidemic (particularly cholera or yellow fever), inoculations or vaccinations are not required for entry into the United States. If you have a medical condition that requires **syringe-administered medications,** carry a valid signed prescription from your physician; syringes in carry-on baggage will be inspected. Insulin in any form should have the proper pharmaceutical documentation. If you have a disease that requires treatment with **narcotics,** you should also carry documented proof with you—smuggling narcotics aboard a plane carries severe penalties in the U.S.

For **HIV-positive visitors,** requirements for entering the United States are somewhat vague and change frequently. For up-to-the-minute information, contact **AIDSinfo** (✆ **800/448-0440** or 301/519-6616 outside the U.S.; www.aidsinfo.nih.gov) or the **Gay Men's Health Crisis** (✆ **212/367-1000;** www.gmhc.org).

3 When to Go

One of your first considerations when planning your trip should be when to visit. While summer is the sunniest season in Portland and the obvious time to visit, it's also the most crowded time of year. Although the city is not yet so popular that you can't usually get a room in town at the last minute, you'll definitely have more choices if you plan ahead. If, on the other hand, you visit in one of the rainier months, between October and May, you'll find lower hotel room rates and almost as much to see and do.

THE WEATHER

You've heard about the horrible weather in the Northwest. It rains all year, right? Wrong! The Portland area has some of the most beautiful summer weather in the country—warm, sunny days with clear blue skies and cool nights perfect for sleeping. During July, August, and September, it almost never rains.

And the rest of the year? Well, yes, it rains in those months and it rains regularly. But the rain is generally a fine mist—not the torrential

downpours most people associate with the word *rain.* The average annual rainfall in Portland is less than it is in New York; Boston; Washington, D.C.; or Atlanta (but Portland has more days of rain and more cloudy days). A raincoat and a sweater or jacket are a way of life here, with Gore-Tex the preferred material.

Winters here aren't too bad, either. They're warmer than in the Northeast, although there is snow in the nearby mountains. In fact, there's so much snow on Mount Hood—only 90 minutes from downtown Portland—that you can ski right through the summer.

All in all, the best months to visit are August and September, and if you're headed to the coast, September is definitely the best month. Octobers can be very pleasant if the rainy season starts slowly. Even in the spring there are weeks, here and there, when the sun shines, and even when it doesn't, the spring flower displays around Portland are so colorful that you hardly notice that the skies are gray.

Of course, you're skeptical, so here are the statistics:

Portland's Average Temperature & Days of Rain

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp. (°F)	40	43	46	50	57	63	68	67	63	54	46	41
Temp. (°C)	4	6	8	10	14	17	20	19	17	12	8	5
Rain (Days)	18	16	17	14	12	10	4	5	8	13	18	19

HOLIDAYS

Banks, government offices, post offices, and many stores, restaurants, and museums are closed on the following legal national holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), the third Monday in January (Martin Luther King, Jr., Day), the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4 (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans' Day/Armistice Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25 (Christmas). The Tuesday after the first Monday in November is Election Day, a federal government holiday in presidential-election years (2008 is an election year).

PORTLAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a calendar of special events in and around Portland, contact **Travel Portland** (see section 1 of this chapter), which lists special events in a couple of its publications and also on its website (**www.travelportland.com**). The *Oregonian* newspaper also lists special events at **www.oregonlive.com**. To find

out what's going on during your visit, pick up a free copy of *Willamette Week* (**www.wweek.com**) or buy the Friday or Sunday *Oregonian.* Some of the larger and more popular special and free events are listed there.

February

The Portland International Film Festival, Portland. Although not one of the country's top film festivals, plenty of interesting foreign films and documentaries are shown. Screenings are held at various theaters around the city. ✆ **503/228-7433;** www.nwfilm.org. Last 3 weeks of February.

March

Tulip Fest, Woodburn. Bold swaths of color paint the landscape at the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company's annual celebration of tulips. ✆ **800/711-2006** or 503/634-2243; www.woodenshoe.com. Late March to late April.

April

Elephantastic!, Portland. The Oregon Zoo is known for its Asian elephants, and each year in mid-April, the zoo's mascot, Packy, gets a party complete with a mammoth birthday cake. ✆ **503/226-1561;** www.oregonzoo.org. Mid-April.

May

Mother's Day Rhododendron Show, Portland. At Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, blooming rhododendrons and azaleas transform the tranquil garden into a mass of blazing color. ✆ **503/771-8386.** Mother's Day.

Memorial Day Weekend in the Wine Country, throughout the wine country surrounding Portland. This is one of two weekends celebrated by Willamette Valley wineries with special tastings and events. Many wineries not usually open to the public open on this weekend. ✆ **503/646-2985;** www.willamettewines.com. Memorial Day weekend.

June

Portland Rose Festival. From its beginnings back in 1888, the Rose Festival has blossomed into Portland's biggest celebration. The festivities now span nearly a month and include the nation's second-largest all-floral parade, a starlight parade, rose queen contest, music festival, and dragon-boat races. Contact the Portland Rose Festival Association (✆ **503/227-2681;** www.rosefestival.org) for tickets and information. Most of the events (some of which are free) take place during the middle 2 weeks of June.

July

Fourth of July Fireworks, Vancouver, Washington. Vancouver, which is part of the Portland metropolitan area, hosts the biggest

fireworks display west of the Mississippi. ✆ **877/600-0800** or 360/750-1553. July 4.

Waterfront Blues Festival, Portland. This is Portland's biggest summer party and takes place in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Expect lots of big names in blues. ✆ **503/973-FEST;** www.waterfrontbluesfest.com. Fourth of July weekend.

Summer Concerts at Oregon Zoo, Oregon Zoo (✆ **503/226-1561;** www.oregonzoo.org). Regional and nationally known performers appear at the zoo's amphitheater. Ticket prices range from $9.75 to $24. July and August.

Noon Tunes (✆ **503/223-1613**), Pioneer Courthouse Square. This is a series of free lunchtime concerts featuring everything from classical music to bluegrass to jazz to Japanese taiko drumming. They're held every Tuesday and Thursday in July and August.

Oregon Brewers Festival, Tom McCall Waterfront Park. One of the country's largest festivals of independent craft brewers features lots of local and international microbrews and music. ✆ **503/778-5917;** www.oregonbrewfest.com. Last weekend in July.

August

Mount Hood Jazz Festival, Gresham (less than 30 min. from Portland). For the jazz fan, this is the most important festival of the summer. ✆ **503/661-2700;** www.mthoodjazz.com. Early August.

The Bite of Oregon, Tom McCall Waterfront Park (✆ **503/248-0600;** www.biteoforegon.com). Portland restaurants serve up sample portions of their specialties at this food and music festival. It's a true gustatory extravaganza and also includes wine tastings and live music. This is a benefit for Special Olympics Oregon. Mid-August.

September

Oktoberfest, Oaks Park Amusement Center (✆ **503/233-5777;** www.oakspark.com). A large and crowded Oktoberfest with lots of polka in the beer hall. Late September.

October

Howloween at the Zoo, Oregon Zoo (✆ **503/226-1561;** www.oregonzoo.org). Sort of a trick-or-treat scavenger hunt, with lots of activities for kids. Last weekend in October.

Portland Marathon, downtown Portland (✆ **503/226-1111;** www.portlandmarathon.org). Features a variety of competitions. Early October.

November

Wine Country Thanksgiving, Willamette Valley. About 30 miles outside of Portland, more than 100 wineries open their doors for tastings of new releases, usually with food and live music. ✆ **503/646-2985;** www.willamettewines.com. Thanksgiving weekend.

Christmas at Pittock Mansion, Pittock Mansion (✆ **503/823-3623;** www.pittockmansion.org). Each year, this grand French Renaissance–style château is decorated according to an annual theme. Mid-November to end of December.

December

Holiday Ale Festival, Pioneer Courthouse Square. Strong winter ales are showcased at this beer-geeks dream festival under a huge tent in downtown Portland. ✆ **503/252-9899;** www.holidayale.com. First weekend in December.

Holiday Parade of Ships, Willamette and Columbia rivers. Boats decked out in fanciful holiday lights parade and circle on the rivers after nightfall. www.christmasships.org. Mid-December.

Zoo Lights, Oregon Zoo (✆ **503/226-1561;** www.oregonzoo.org). One of Portland's most impressive holiday light shows is at the Oregon Zoo. No, they don't put lights on the animals, but just about everything else seems to get covered. Month of December (closed Dec 24–25).

New Year's Eve, Portland. Pioneer Courthouse Square is ground zero for Portland partiers on New Year's Eve. ✆ **877/678-5263** or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com. December 31.

4 Getting There

BY PLANE

Portland International Airport (**PDX; ✆ 877/739-4636** or 503/460-4234; www.flypdx.com) is located 10 miles northeast of downtown Portland, adjacent to the Columbia River. An information booth, where you can pick up maps and brochures and find out about transportation into the city, is located by the baggage-claim area. Many hotels near the airport provide courtesy shuttle service to and from the airport; be sure to ask when you make a reservation.

The major carriers to Portland International Airport include **Air Canada Jazz** (✆ 888/247-2262; www.flyjazz.ca), **Alaska Airlines** (✆ 800/252-7522; www.alaskaair.com), **American Airlines** (✆ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com), **Continental** (✆ 800/523-3273; www.continental.com), **Delta** (✆ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com), **Frontier**

(✆ 800/432-1359; www.flyfrontier.com), **Horizon Air** (✆ 800/547-9308; www.horizonair.com), **JetBlue Airways** (✆ 800/538-2583; www.jetblue.com), **Northwest/KLM** (✆ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com), **Southwest** (✆ 800/435-9792; www.southwest.com), **United** (✆ 800/864-8331; www.ual.com), and **US Airways/America West Airlines** (✆ 800/428-4322; www.usairways.com).

Lufthansa (✆ 800/645-3880; www.lufthansa.com) flies direct to Portland from Germany, and Northwest Airlines now flies nonstop from Amsterdam to Portland. International carriers that fly from Europe to Los Angeles and/or San Francisco (where you can continue on to Portland on a domestic carrier) include **Aer Lingus** (✆ 0818/365-000 in Ireland; www.aerlingus.com) and **British Airways** (✆ 0870/850-9850; www.britishairways.com).

Flights to San Francisco and Los Angeles from New Zealand and Australia are available on **Qantas** (✆ 13-13-13 in Australia; www.qantas.com.au) and **Air New Zealand** (✆ 0800/737-000 in New Zealand; www.airnewzealand.co.nz). From both cities, you can continue on to Portland on a regional domestic carrier.

GETTING INTO THE CITY BY CAR If you've rented a car at the airport and want to reach central Portland, follow signs for downtown. These signs will point you first to I-205 and then I-84 west, which brings you to the Willamette River. Take the Morrison Bridge exit to cross the river. The trip takes about 20 minutes and is entirely on interstates. For more information on renting a car, see chapter 3, "Getting Around."

GETTING INTO THE CITY BY LIGHT RAIL OR TAXI If you haven't rented a car at the airport, the best way to get into town is to take the **Airport MAX (Red Line)** light-rail line. The MAX operates daily roughly every 15 minutes between 5am and midnight and the trip from the airport to Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland takes approximately 35 minutes. (All but one or two of the downtown hotels lie within 4 or 5 blocks of the square; plan on walking since taxis in Portland don't generally cruise for fares. Folks arriving with a lot of luggage will be better off taking a cab or shuttle van from the airport.) The adult fare is $2.05. For information on this service, contact **TriMet** (✆ **503/238-7433;** www.trimet.org).

A taxi to downtown generally costs between $30 and $35.

BY CAR

The distance to Portland from Seattle is 175 miles; from Spokane, 350 miles; from Vancouver, British Columbia, 285 miles; from San Francisco, 640 miles; and from Los Angeles, 1,015 miles.

From California, I-5 runs up through the length of the state and continues north toward the Canadian border; it passes through the heart of Portland. If you're coming from the east, I-84 runs from Idaho and points east into Oregon, eventually ending in Portland.

One of the most important benefits of belonging to the **American Automobile Association** (✆ **800/222-4357;** www.aaa.com) is that they supply members with emergency road service. In Portland, AAA is located at 600 SW Market St. (✆ **800/452-1643** or 503/222-6734; www.aaaorid.com).

BY TRAIN

Amtrak's (✆ **800/872-7245;** www.amtrak.com) *Coast Starlight* train connects Portland with Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, and stops at historic **Union Station,** 800 NW Sixth Ave. (✆ **503/273-4860**), about 10 blocks from the heart of downtown Portland. Between Portland and Seattle are both regular trains and modern European-style Talgo trains, which make the trip in 3½ to 4 hours, as opposed to 4½ hours on the regular train. On either type of train, one-way fares between Seattle and Portland run $28 to $37. The Talgo train, called *Cascades,* runs between Eugene, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Taxis are usually waiting to meet trains and can take you to your hotel. Alternatively, you might be able to get your hotel to send a van to pick you up, or, if you are renting a car from a downtown car-rental office, the agency will usually pick you up at the station. Until the new MAX line begins running past Union Station some time in 2009, you can catch a public bus a block south of the station (toward downtown). Remember, buses are free within the downtown area, which includes the train station.

BY BUS

Portland is served by **Greyhound Bus Lines.** The bus station is at 550 NW Sixth Ave. (✆ **800/231-2222** or 503/243-2361; www.greyhound.com), on the north side of downtown near Union Station. From Seattle to Portland, it's around $28 one-way and $50 round-trip. The trip takes 3½ to 4½ hours. As with getting into downtown from the train station, there is no charge to ride any public city bus if you catch it outside the Greyhound terminal, which is within Portland's Fareless Square area (p. 30). Sometime in 2009,

you'll be able to hop on the MAX light rail outside the bus station.

Although you could easily walk from the station into the heart of downtown, you have to pass through a somewhat rough neighborhood for a few blocks. Although this area is currently undergoing a renaissance and is not nearly as bad as it once was, I don't recommend walking, especially after dark.

5 Money

ATMS

Nationwide, the easiest and best way to get cash away from home is from an ATM (automated teller machine), sometimes referred to as a "cash machine," or "cashpoint." The **Cirrus** (✆ **800/424-7787;** www.mastercard.com) and **PLUS** (✆ **800/843-7587;** www.visa.com) networks span the country; you can find them even in remote regions. Go to your bank card's website to find ATM locations at your destination. Be sure you know your daily withdrawal limit before you depart.

Note: Many banks impose a fee every time you use a card at another bank's ATM, and that fee is often higher for international transactions (up to $5 or more) than for domestic ones (where they're rarely more than $2). In addition, the bank from which you withdraw cash may charge its own fee. To compare banks' ATM fees within the U.S., use **www.bankrate.com**. Visitors from outside the U.S. should also find out whether their bank assesses a 1% to 3% fee on charges incurred abroad.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS

Though credit cards and debit cards are more often used, traveler's checks are still widely accepted in the U.S. Foreign visitors should make sure that traveler's checks are denominated in U.S. dollars; foreign-currency checks are often difficult to exchange.

You can buy traveler's checks at most banks. Most are offered in denominations of $20, $50, $100, $500, and sometimes $1,000. Generally, you'll pay a service charge ranging from 1% to 4%.

The most popular traveler's checks are offered by **American Express** (✆ **800/807-6233;** ✆ 800/221-7282 for cardholders—this number accepts collect calls, offers service in several foreign languages, and exempts Amex gold and platinum cardholders from the 1% fee); **Visa** (✆ **800/732-1322**)—AAA members can obtain Visa checks for a $9.95 fee (for checks up to $1,500) at most AAA offices or by calling ✆ **866/339-3378;** and **MasterCard** (✆ **800/223-9920**).

Be sure to keep a copy of the traveler's checks serial numbers separate from your checks in the event that they are stolen or lost. You'll get a refund faster if you know the numbers.

CREDIT CARDS & DEBIT CARDS

Credit cards are the most widely used form of payment in the United States: **Visa** (Barclaycard in Britain), **MasterCard** (EuroCard in Europe, Access in Britain, and Chargex in Canada), American **Express, Diners Club,** and **Discover.** They also provide a convenient record of all your expenses, and offer relatively good exchange rates. You can withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs, but high fees make credit card cash advances a pricey way to get cash.

It's highly recommended that you travel with at least one major credit card. You must have a credit card to rent a car, and hotels and airlines usually require a credit card imprint as a deposit against expenses.

ATM cards with major credit card backing, known as **"debit cards,"** are now a commonly acceptable form of payment in most stores and restaurants. Debit cards draw money directly from your checking account. Some stores allow you to receive cash back on your debit-card purchases as well. The same is true at most U.S. post offices.

6 Travel Insurance

The cost of travel insurance varies widely, depending on the cost and length of your trip, your age and health, and the type of trip you're taking, but expect to pay between 5% and 8% of the vacation itself. You can get estimates from various providers through **InsureMyTrip.com**. Enter your trip cost and dates, your age, and other information, for prices from more than a dozen companies.

For **U.K. citizens,** insurance is always advisable when traveling in the States. Travelers or families who make more than one trip abroad per year may find an annual travel insurance policy works out cheaper. Check **www.moneysupermarket.com**, which compares prices across a wide range of providers for single- and multi-trip policies.

Most big travel agents offer their own insurance and will probably try to sell you their package when you book a holiday. Think before you sign. **Britain's Consumers' Association** recommends that you insist on seeing the policy and reading the fine print before buying

travel insurance. **The Association of British Insurers** (✆ **020/7600-3333;** www.abi.org.uk) gives advice by phone and publishes *Holiday Insurance,* a free guide to policy provisions and prices. You might also shop around for better deals: Try **Columbus Direct** (✆ **0870/033-9988;** www.columbusdirect.net).

TRIP-CANCELLATION INSURANCE Trip-cancellation insurance will help retrieve your money if you have to back out of a trip or depart early, or if your travel supplier goes bankrupt. Trip cancellation traditionally covers such events as sickness, natural disasters, and State Department advisories. The latest news in trip-cancellation insurance is the availability of **expanded hurricane coverage** and the **"any-reason"** cancellation coverage—which costs more but covers cancellations made for any reason. You won't get back 100% of your prepaid trip cost, but you'll be refunded a substantial portion. **TravelSafe** (✆ **888/885-7233;** www.travelsafe.com) offers both types of coverage. Expedia also offers any-reason cancellation coverage for its air-hotel packages.

For details, contact one of the following recommended insurers: **Access America** (✆ 866/807-3982; www.accessamerica.com); **Travel Guard International** (✆ 800/826-4919; www.travelguard.com); **Travel Insured International** (✆ 800/243-3174; www.travelinsured.com); and **Travelex Insurance Services** (✆ 888/457-4602; www.travelex-insurance.com).

MEDICAL INSURANCE Although it's not required of travelers, health insurance is highly recommended. Most health insurance policies cover you if you get sick away from home—but check your coverage before you leave.

International visitors should note that unlike many European countries, the United States does not usually offer free or low-cost medical care to its citizens or visitors. Doctors and hospitals are expensive, and in most cases will require advance payment or proof of coverage before they render their services. Good policies will cover the costs of an accident, repatriation, or death. Packages such as **Europ Assistance's "Worldwide Healthcare Plan"** are sold by European automobile clubs and travel agencies at attractive rates. **Worldwide Assistance Services, Inc.** (✆ **800/777-8710;** www.worldwideassistance.com) is the agent for Europ Assistance in the United States.

Though lack of health insurance may prevent you from being admitted to a hospital in nonemergencies, don't worry about being left on a street corner to die: The American way is to fix you now and bill the living daylights out of you later.

If you're ever hospitalized more than 150 miles from home, **MedjetAssist** (✆ **800/527-7478;** www.medjetassistance.com) will pick you up and fly you to the hospital of your choice in a medically equipped and staffed aircraft 24 hours day, 7 days a week. Annual memberships are $225 individual, $350 family; you can also purchase short-term memberships.

Canadians should check with their provincial health plan offices or call **Health Canada** (✆ **866/225-0709;** www.hc-sc.gc.ca) to find out the extent of their coverage and what documentation and receipts they must take home in case they are treated in the United States.

LOST-LUGGAGE INSURANCE On flights within the U.S., checked baggage is covered up to $2,500 per ticketed passenger. On flights outside the U.S. (and on U.S. portions of international trips), baggage coverage is limited to approximately $9.07 per pound, up to approximately $635 per checked bag. If you plan to check items more valuable than what's covered by the standard liability, see if your homeowner's policy covers your valuables, get baggage insurance as part of your comprehensive travel-insurance package, or buy Travel Guard's "BagTrak" product.

If your luggage is lost, immediately file a lost-luggage claim at the airport, detailing the luggage contents. Most airlines require that you report delayed, damaged, or lost baggage within 4 hours of arrival. The airlines are required to deliver luggage, once found, directly to your house or destination free of charge.

7 Health

If you get sick, consider asking your hotel concierge to recommend a local doctor—even his or her own. You can also try an urgent-care facility or a local hospital, many of which have walk-in clinics for emergency cases that are not life-threatening. You may not get immediate attention, but you won't pay the high price of an emergency room visit.

Hospitals and **emergency numbers** are listed under "Fast Facts," in chapter 3.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, consult your doctor before your departure. Pack **prescription medications** in your carry-on

luggage, and carry them in their original containers, with pharmacy labels—otherwise they won't make it through airport security. Visitors from outside the U.S. should carry generic names of prescription drugs. For U.S. travelers, most reliable health-care plans provide coverage if you get sick away from home. Foreign visitors may have to pay all medical costs upfront and be reimbursed later. See "Medical Insurance," under "Travel Insurance," above.

8 Safety

Because of its relatively small size and progressive emphasis on keeping the downtown alive and growing, Portland is still a relatively safe city. However, you will encounter many homeless people in the Old Town/Skidmore District, Chinatown, and West Burnside Street from the Willamette River to the North Park Blocks due to the number of missions and homeless shelters in the area. Unless you are going to one of the many bars and nightclubs in the area, these latter neighborhoods are best avoided after dark. Be sure to take extra precaution when leaving a bar or club at night.

If you plan to go hiking in Forest Park, don't leave anything valuable in your car. This holds true in the Skidmore Historic District (Old Town) as well.

9 Specialized Travel Resources

GAYS & LESBIANS

Gay and lesbian travelers visiting Portland should be sure to pick up a free copy of *Just Out* (✆ **503/236-1252;** www.justout.com), a bimonthly newspaper for the gay community. You can usually find copies at **Powell's Books,** 1005 W. Burnside St. Another publication to look for is *Portland's Gay & Lesbian Community Yellow Pages* (✆ **503/230-7701;** www.pdxgayyellowpages.com), which is also usually available at Powell's.

For a list of gay-friendly accommodations in the Portland area, go to the **Purple Roofs** website (www.purpleroofs.com).

Gay.com Travel (✆ **800/929-2268** or 415/644-8044; www.gay.com/travel or www.outandabout.com) is an excellent online successor to the popular ***Out & About*** print magazine. It provides regularly updated information about gay-owned, gay-oriented, and gay-friendly lodging, dining, sightseeing, nightlife, and shopping establishments in every important destination worldwide. British travelers should click on the "Travel" link at **www.uk.gay.com** for advice and gay-friendly trip ideas.

The Canadian website **GayTraveler** (**gaytraveler.ca**) offers ideas and advice for gay travel all over the world.

The following travel guides are available at many bookstores, or you can order them from any online bookseller: ***Spartacus International Gay Guide, 35th Edition*** (Bruno Gmünder Verlag; www.spartacusworld.com/gayguide) and ***Odysseus: The International Gay Travel Planner, 17th Edition*** (www.odyusa.com); and the ***Damron*** guides (www.damron.com), with separate, annual books for gay men and lesbians.

FAMILY TRAVEL

If you have enough trouble simply getting your kids out of the house in the morning, dragging them thousands of miles away may seem like an insurmountable challenge. But family travel can be immensely rewarding, giving you the chance to see the world through smaller pairs of eyes.

To locate particularly kid-friendly accommodations, restaurants, and attractions, refer to the "Kids" icon throughout this guide.

Families traveling in Oregon should be sure to take note of family admission fees at many museums and other attractions. These admission prices are often less than what it would cost for individual tickets for the whole family. At hotels and motels, children usually stay free if they share their parent's room and no extra bed or crib is required, and sometimes they also get to eat for free in the hotel dining room. Be sure to ask.

Recommended family travel websites include **Family Travel Forum** (www.familytravelforum.com), a comprehensive site that offers customized trip planning; **Family Travel Network** (www.familytravelnetwork.com), an online magazine providing travel tips; and **Travel WithYourKids.com** (www.travelwithyourkids.com), a comprehensive site written by parents for parents offering sound advice for long-distance and international travel with children.

10 Eco-Tourism/Sustainable Development

Often held up as an example of a city that is doing things right environmentally, Portland has long boasted of its many parks and green spaces. However, in recent years the greening of Portland has been less about vegetation and more about population density. By encouraging compact mixed-use developments and expanding its public-transit options, the city has been able to get people out of their cars. The

city's state-mandated urban-growth boundary has also helped the city to remain fairly compact. Instead of building sprawling suburbs, the city has emphasized infill housing and encouraged the growth of urban villages.

What this all means for the visitor is that Portland is an easy place to reduce your carbon footprint while on vacation. Sure, you'll probably arrive by plane, but once you're here, you will more than likely be taking public transportation everywhere you go. You can also rent a bike and join the throngs of cyclists who commute daily between downtown and neighborhoods on the east side of the Willamette River. It is an impressive sight to watch the evening cycle commuters crossing the Hawthorne Bridge by the dozens—and they often make better time than the car commuters.

Eating out in Portland provides the tastiest options for a sustainable vacation. Chefs all over this city are firm believers in local and organic produce, and on many menus you'll see mention of the local farm that provided the ingredients. Want to meet some of those local farmers? Head to the Saturday **Portland Farmers Market** (p. 84), located downtown and accessible by streetcar.

For more information on green building and sustainable development issues in Portland, contact **Ecotrust,** Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Suite 200, Portland, OR 97209 (✆ **503/227-6225;** www.ecotrust.org); or, in this same green building, the city of Portland's **Office of Sustainable Development,** 721 NW Ninth Ave., Portland, OR 97209 (✆ **503/823-7222;** www.portlandonline.com/osd).

11 Staying Connected

TELEPHONES

Generally, hotel surcharges on long-distance and local calls are astronomical, so you're better off using your **cellphone** or a **public pay telephone.** Many convenience groceries and packaging services sell **prepaid calling cards** in denominations up to $50; for international visitors these can be the least expensive way to call home. Many public pay phones at airports now accept American Express, MasterCard, and Visa credit cards. **Local calls** made from pay phones in most locales cost either 25¢ or 35¢ (no pennies, please). In the Portland area, where 10-digit dialing is required for local calls, **503** is the main **area code.** However, you may occasionally encounter the 971 area code.

Most long-distance and international calls can be dialed directly from any phone. **For calls within the United States and to Canada,** dial 1 followed by the area code and the seven-digit number. **For other international calls,** dial 011 followed by the country code, city code, and the number you are calling.

Calls to area codes **800, 888, 877,** and **866** are toll-free. However, calls to area codes **700** and **900** (chat lines, bulletin boards, "dating" services, and so on) can be very expensive—usually a charge of 95¢ to $3 or more per minute, and they sometimes have minimum charges that can run as high as $15 or more.

For **reversed-charge or collect calls,** and for person-to-person calls, dial the number 0 then the area code and number; an operator will come on the line, and you should specify whether you are calling collect, person-to-person, or both. If your operator-assisted call is international, ask for the overseas operator.

For **local directory assistance** ("information"), dial 411; for long-distance information, dial 1, then the appropriate area code and 555-1212.

CELLPHONES

Just because your cellphone works at home doesn't mean it'll work everywhere in the U.S. (thanks to our nation's fragmented cellphone system). It's a good bet that your phone will work in major cities, but take a look at your wireless company's coverage map on its website before heading out; T-Mobile, Sprint, and Nextel are particularly weak in rural areas. If you need to stay in touch at a destination where you know your phone won't work, **rent** a phone that does from **InTouch USA** (✆ **800/872-7626;** www.intouchglobal.com) or a rental car location, but beware that you'll pay $1 a minute or more for airtime.

If you're not from the U.S., you'll be appalled at the poor reach of our **GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) wireless network,** which is used by much of the rest of the world. Your phone will probably work in most major U.S. cities; it definitely won't work in many rural areas. To see where GSM phones work in the U.S., check out www.t-mobile.com/coverage. And you may or may not be able to send SMS (text messaging) home.

VOICE-OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP)

If you have Web access while traveling, you might consider a broadband-based telephone service (in technical terms, **Voice over Internet protocol,** or **VoIP**) such as Skype (www.skype.com) or Vonage

(www.vonage.com), which allows you to make free international calls if you use their services from your laptop or in a cybercafe. Check the sites for details on rates and restrictions.

INTERNET/E-MAIL

WITHOUT YOUR OWN COMPUTER

To find cybercafes in your destination check **www.cybercaptive.com** and **www.cybercafe.com**.

If you need to check e-mail while in Portland, first check with your hotel, or, if you have your own laptop with a wireless card, find a cafe with Wi-Fi access. Otherwise, visit a **FedEx Kinko's.** A branch is located downtown at 221 SW Alder St. (✆ **503/224-6550;** fedex.kinkos.com) and northwest at 950 NW 23rd Ave. (✆ **503/222-4133**). You can also try the **Multnomah County Library,** 801 SW 10th Ave. (✆ **503/988-5123**), which is Portland's main library and offers online services.

WITH YOUR OWN COMPUTER

More and more hotels, resorts, airports, cafes, and retailers are going Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity), becoming "hotspots" that offer free high-speed Wi-Fi access or charge a small fee for usage. Wi-Fi is even found in campgrounds, RV parks, and even entire towns. Most laptops sold today have built-in wireless capability. To find public Wi-Fi hotspots at your destination, go to **www.jiwire.com**; its Hotspot Finder holds the world's largest directory of public wireless hotspots.

For dial-up access, most business-class hotels in the U.S. offer dataports for laptop modems, and a few thousand hotels in the U.S. and Europe now offer free high-speed Internet access.

Wherever you go, bring a **connection kit** of the right power and phone adapters, a spare phone cord, and a spare Ethernet network cable—or find out whether your hotel supplies them to guests.

3 Getting to Know Portland

Portland is a compact city that prides itself on its extensive and effective public transit system. As a visitor, you'll find the public transportation system can take you from the airport to downtown, and even from downtown to nearly every major attraction in the city as well as to the hiking trails in the forest hills west of the city. In fact, unless you're heading out of the city on an excursion, you won't need to rent a car.

1 Orientation

CITY LAYOUT

Portland is in northwestern Oregon at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. To the west are the West Hills, which rise to more than 1,000 feet. Some 90 miles west of the city are the spectacular Oregon coast and the Pacific Ocean. To the east are rolling hills that extend to the Cascade Range, about 50 miles away. The most prominent peak in this section of the Cascades is Mount Hood (11,235 ft.), a dormant volcanic peak that looms over the city on clear days. From many parts of Portland it's also possible to see Mount St. Helens, a volcano that erupted violently in 1980.

With about two million people in the entire metropolitan area, Portland remains a relatively small city. This is especially evident when you begin to explore the compact downtown area. Nearly everything is accessible on foot, and the city does everything it can to encourage walking and using public transit.

MAIN ARTERIES & STREETS **I-84 (Banfield Fwy. or Expwy.)** enters Portland from the east. East of the city is **I-205,** which bypasses downtown Portland and runs past the airport. **I-5** runs through on a north-south axis, passing along the east bank of the Willamette River directly across from downtown. **I-405** circles around the west and south sides of downtown. **U.S. 26 (Sunset Hwy.)** leaves downtown heading west toward Beaverton and the coast. **Ore. 217** runs south from U.S. 26 in Beaverton.

Greater Portland Orientation

The most important artery within Portland is **Burnside Street.** This is the dividing line between north and south Portland. Dividing the city from east to west is the **Willamette River,** which is crossed by eight bridges in the downtown area. From north to south these bridges are the Fremont, Broadway, Steel, Burnside, Morrison, Hawthorne, Marquam, and Ross Island. Additional bridges beyond the downtown area include the Sellwood Bridge, located between downtown and Lake Oswego, and the St. John's Bridge, which connects Northwest Portland with north Portland.

For the sake of convenience, this book defines downtown Portland as the 300-block area within the **Fareless Square.** This is the area (shaded in on the map in chapter 4) in which you can ride for free on the city's public buses, the MAX light-rail system, and the Portland Streetcar. In downtown, the Fareless Square is bounded by I-405 on the west and south, by Irving Street on the north, and by the Willamette River on the east. A Fareless Square extension also allows transit riders on the MAX light-rail trolleys and any of the buses to travel free between downtown Portland and both the Oregon Convention Center and Lloyd Center Mall.

FINDING AN ADDRESS Finding an address in Portland can be easy. Almost all addresses in Portland, and for miles beyond, include a map quadrant—NE (northeast), SW (southwest), and so forth. The dividing line between east and west is the Willamette River; between north and south it's Burnside Street. Any downtown address will be labeled either SW (southwest) or NW (northwest). An exception to this rule is the area known as North Portland, which is the area across the Willamette River from downtown going toward the Columbia River and Vancouver, Washington. Streets here have a plain "North" designation. Also, Burnside Street is designated either "East" or "West."

Avenues run north–south and streets run east–west. Street names are the same on both sides of the Willamette River. Consequently, there is a SW Yamhill Street and a SE Yamhill Street. In Northwest Portland, street names are alphabetical going north from Burnside to Wilson. Naito Parkway is the street nearest the Willamette River on the west side, and Water Avenue is the nearest on the east side. Beyond these are numbered avenues. On the west side you'll also find Broadway and Park Avenue between Sixth Avenue and Ninth Avenue. With each block, the addresses increase by 100, beginning at the Willamette River for avenues and at Burnside Street for streets.

Fun Fact **Did You Know?**

- The flasher in the famous "Expose Yourself to Art" poster is none other than Bud Clark, the former mayor of Portland.
- Portland is the only city in the United States with an extinct volcano within the city limits (Mount Tabor).
- Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons,* got his start in Portland.
- More Asian elephants have been born in Portland (at the Oregon Zoo) than in any other city in North America.
- Twenty downtown water fountains were a gift to the city from teetotaling early-20th-century timber baron Simon Benson, who wanted his mill workers to have something other than alcohol to drink during the day.

Odd numbers are generally on the west and north sides of the street, and even numbers on the east and south sides.

Here's an example: You want to go to 1327 SW Ninth Ave. Because it's in the 1300 block, you'll find it 13 blocks south of Burnside and, because it's an odd number, on the west side of the street.

STREET MAPS Stop by **Travel Portland,** 701 SW Sixth Ave., Suite 1 (✆ **877/678-5263** or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com), in Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland for a free map of the city.

Powell's City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. (✆ **800/878-7323** or 503/228-4651), has an excellent free map of downtown that includes a walking-tour route and information on many of the sights you'll pass along the way.

Members of the **American Automobile Association (AAA)** can get a free map of the city at the AAA offices at 600 SW Market St. (✆ **503/222-6734;** www.aaaorid.com).

PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF

Portland's neighborhoods are mostly dictated by geography. The Willamette River forms a natural dividing line between the eastern and western portions of the city, while the Columbia River forms a boundary with the state of Washington on the north. The West Hills, comprising Portland's prime residential neighborhoods, are a beautiful backdrop for this attractive city. Covered in

evergreens, the hills rise to a height of 1,000 feet at the edge of downtown. Within these hills are the Oregon Zoo, the International Rose Test Garden, the Japanese Garden, and several other attractions.

For a map of Portland neighborhoods, turn to the "Portland Attractions" map on p. 80.

DOWNTOWN This term usually refers to the business and shopping district south of Burnside and north of Jackson Street between the Willamette River and 13th Avenue. Here you'll find a dozen or more high-end hotels, restaurants of all types, and loads of shopping. Within downtown's **Cultural District** (along Broadway and the South Park blocks), are most of the city's performing arts venues and a couple of museums.

SKIDMORE HISTORIC DISTRICT Also known as Old Town, this is Portland's original commercial core and centers around SW Ankeny Street and SW First Avenue. Many of the restored buildings have become retail stores, but despite the presence of the **Saturday Market,** the neighborhood has never become a popular shopping district, mostly because of its welfare hotels, missions, street people, and drug dealing. However, with its many clubs and bars, it is the city's main nightlife district. The neighborhood is safe during the day, but visitors should exercise caution at night.

CHINATOWN Portland has had a Chinatown almost since its earliest days. This small area, with its numerous Chinese groceries and restaurants, is wedged between the Pearl District and the Skidmore Historic District and is entered through the colorful Chinatown Gate at West Burnside Street and Fourth Avenue. The neighborhood's main attraction is the impressive **Portland Classical Chinese Garden.** Because of its proximity to bars on West Burnside Street and the homeless missions and welfare hotels in Old Town, this is not a good neighborhood to explore late at night. However, it has been undergoing something of a renaissance in recent years.

THE PEARL DISTRICT This neighborhood of galleries, residential and business lofts, cafes, breweries, and shops is bounded by the North Park blocks, Overton Street, I-405, and Burnside Street. Crowds of people come here on **First Thursday** (the first Thurs of every month) when art galleries and other businesses are open late. This is Portland's hip urban loft scene and one of the city's main upscale-restaurant neighborhoods.

NORTHWEST/NOB HILL Located along NW 23rd and NW 21st avenues, this is one of Portland's two most fashionable neighborhoods. Here you'll find many of the city's best restaurants

(mostly along NW 21st Ave.), as well as lots of cafes, boutiques, and national chain stores. Surrounding the two main business streets of the neighborhood are blocks of restored Victorian homes on shady tree-lined streets.

SOUTH WATERFRONT This is the newest neighborhood in Portland and is a collection of high-rise offices and condominiums a half-mile south of Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The South Waterfront is where you'll find the lower terminal for the Portland Aerial Tram.

IRVINGTON Though neither as attractive nor as large as the Northwest/Nob Hill neighborhood, Irvington, centered around Broadway in northeast Portland, is almost as hip. For several blocks along Broadway (around NE 15th Ave.) you'll find interesting boutiques and numerous good, inexpensive restaurants.

HAWTHORNE DISTRICT This enclave of southeast Portland is full of eclectic boutiques, moderately priced restaurants, and hip college students from nearby **Reed College.** Just south of Hawthorne Boulevard, beginning at SE 12th Avenue, you'll find the interesting **Ladd's Addition** neighborhood, which has five rose gardens and a great pastry shop. Belmont Street, just north of Hawthorne Boulevard, and Division Street, to the south, are two of the city's up-and-coming hip neighborhoods, both well worth exploring.

SELLWOOD/WESTMORELAND Situated in southeast Portland, this is the city's antiques district and contains many restored Victorian houses. Just north of the Sellwood antiques district, surrounding the intersection of SE Milwaukie Avenue and SE Bybee Boulevard, you'll find the heart of the Eastmoreland neighborhood, home to numerous good restaurants.

2 Getting Around

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

For bus, MAX, and Portland Streetcar information, contact the **TriMet Customer Assistance Office** (✆ **503/238-7433;** www.trimet.org).

FREE RIDES Portland is committed to keeping its downtown uncongested, and to this end has invested heavily in its public transportation system. The single greatest innovation—as well as the best reason to ride the TriMet public buses, the MAX light-rail system, and the Portland Streetcar—is that they're free within an area known as the **Fareless Square.** That's right, free!

There are 300 blocks of downtown included in the Fareless Square, and as long as you stay within the boundaries, you don't pay a cent. The Fareless Square covers the area between I-405 on the south and west, Hoyt Street on the north, and the Willamette River on the east. The Fareless Square extension also makes it possible to take public transit (either the bus or the MAX light-rail trolley) between downtown Portland and both the Rose Quarter (site of the Oregon Convention Center) and the Lloyd District (site of the Lloyd Center Mall), which are both across the Willamette River in northeast Portland.

BY BUS TriMet buses operate daily over an extensive network. You can pick up the ***TriMet Schedule Book,*** which lists all the bus routes with times, or individual route maps and time schedules, at the **TriMet Ticket Office,** behind and beneath the waterfall fountain at Pioneer Courthouse Square (✆ **503/238-7433;** www.trimet.org). The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm. Bus and MAX passes and transit information are also available at area Fred Meyer, Safeway, and most Albertsons grocery stores. Due to construction of new light rail lines on the Portland Mall (Transit Mall) along Fifth and Sixth avenues, buses now stop on Third and Fourth avenues and will continue to do so through at least spring 2009.

Outside the Fareless Square, adult fares on TriMet buses, MAX light-rail trains, and Portland Streetcars are $1.75 or $2.05, depending on how far you travel. Seniors 65 years and older pay 85¢ with valid proof of age; children 7 through 17 pay $1.40. You can also make free transfers between the bus and both the MAX light-rail system and the Portland Streetcar. All-day tickets costing $4.25 are good for travel to all zones and are valid on buses, MAX, and streetcars. These tickets can be purchased from any bus driver, at MAX stops, and on board Portland Streetcars.

BY LIGHT RAIL **The Metropolitan Area Express** (**MAX;** ✆ **503/323-7363**) is Portland's aboveground light-rail system that connects downtown Portland with the airport, the eastern suburb of Gresham, the western suburbs of Beaverton and Hillsboro, and North Portland. MAX is basically a modern trolley, but a few replicas of vintage trolley cars are scattered throughout the fleet. Between March and December these operate between downtown Portland and the Lloyd Center on Sundays from noon to 6:30pm. One of the most convenient places to catch the MAX is at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The MAX light-rail system crosses the Transit Mall on SW

Morrison Street and SW Yamhill Street. Transfers to the bus are free.

As with the bus, MAX is free within the Fareless Square downtown area, and the Rose Quarter (site of the Oregon Convention Center) and Lloyd District. Both are across the Willamette River in northeast Portland. If you are traveling outside of the Fareless Square, be sure to buy your ticket and stamp it in the time-punch machine on the platform before you board MAX. Ticket-vending machines at all MAX stops tell you how much to pay for your destination; these machines also give change. The MAX driver cannot sell tickets. Fares are the same as on buses. Ticket inspectors randomly check to make sure passengers have stamped tickets.

The **Portland Streetcar** (✆ **503/238-RIDE;** www.portlandstreetcar.org) operates from the new South Waterfront District (site of the Portland Aerial Tram) south of downtown, through Portland State University, downtown, and the Pearl District to Northwest Portland. The route takes in not only the attractions of the Cultural District but also all the restaurants and great shopping in the Pearl District and along NW 21st and 23rd avenues, which makes this streetcar a great way for visitors to get from downtown (where most of the hotels are located) to the neighborhoods with the greatest concentrations of restaurants. Streetcar fares for trips outside the Fareless Square are $1.75 for adults, $1.40 for youths, and 85¢ for seniors. Note that these fares are valid all day, so once you've paid your fare, you won't have to buy another ticket all day.

Hospitals aren't usually considered tourist destinations, but in Portland's case, one medical center, the Oregon Health & Sciences University Hospital has become something of an accidental destination. The hillside hospital is connected to the newly developed South Waterfront District by the **Portland Aerial Tram** (www.portlandtram.org), and this tram has become a popular Portland excursion. There may not be much to do once you get to the hospital, but the ride up and back sure is fun and provides great views over the city. The tram's silvery, egg-shaped gondolas operate Monday through Friday from 6am to 1pm and Saturday from 9am to 5pm, with departures every 5 minutes. The round-trip fare is $4 and children 5 and under ride free. You'll find the lower terminal on SW Bond Street, ½ mile south of downtown. The Portland Streetcar stops at the tram station.

BY CAR

CAR RENTALS Portland is a compact city, and public transit will get you to most attractions within its limits. However, if you are planning to explore outside the city—and Portland's greatest attractions,

such as Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge, lie not in the city itself but in the countryside within an hour of the city—you'll definitely need a car.

The major car-rental companies are all represented in Portland and have desks at Portland International Airport, which is the most convenient place to pick up a car. Many independent and small car-rental agencies are also listed in the Portland Yellow Pages. Weekly rates for an economy car in July (high-season rates) can run from $175 (with discounts and promotions) to $300 (with no discounts), so it really pays to shop around. Expect lower rates in the rainy months.

On the ground floor of the airport parking deck, across the street from the baggage-claim area, you'll find the following companies: **Avis** (✆ **800/331-1212** or 503/249-4950; www.avis.com), **Budget** (✆ **800/527-0700** or 503/249-6331; www.budget.com), **Dollar** (✆ **800/800-3365** or 503/249-4792; www.dollar.com), **Enterprise** (✆ **800/261-7331** or 503/252-1500; www.enterprise.com); and **Hertz** (✆ **800/654-3131** or 503/528-7900; www.hertz.com). Outside the airport, but with desks adjacent to the other car-rental desks, are **Alamo** (✆ **800/462-5266** or 503/249-4900; www.goalamo.com), **National** (✆ **800/227-7368** or 503/249-4900; www.nationalcar.com), and **Thrifty** (✆ **800/847-4389** or 503/254-6563; www.thrifty.com).

PARKING Throughout most of downtown Portland and the Pearl District, you won't find any parking meters on the streets. However, in the middle of every block, you will find an electronic parking meter that takes coins, credit cards, and debit cards. These machines issue little parking receipts that you then have to tape in the curbside window of your car. Although a bit inconvenient, this system allows you to buy time while parked in one space and still use your remaining time if you move your car to another space. In most parts of town, you don't have to feed the meters after 7pm or on Sunday.

The best parking deal in town is at the **Smart Park** garages, where the cost is $1.25 per hour for the first 4 hours (but after that the hourly rate jumps to $3, so you'd be well advised to move your car), $2 to $6 for the entire evening after 6pm, or $4 to $5 all day on the weekends. Look for the red, white, and black signs featuring the image of a smart parking attendant. You'll find Smart Park garages at First Avenue and Jefferson Street, Fourth Avenue and Yamhill Street, 10th Avenue and Yamhill Street, Third Avenue and Alder Street, O'Bryant Square, Naito Parkway and Davis Street, and Station Place

(in the Pearl District near Union Station). Hundreds of downtown merchants validate Smart Park tickets for 2 hours if you spend at least $25, so don't forget to take your ticket along with you.

SPECIAL DRIVING RULES You may turn right on a red light after a full stop, and if you are in the far left lane of a one-way street, you may turn left into the adjacent left lane of a one-way street at a red light after a full stop. Everyone in a moving vehicle is required to wear a seat belt.

BY TAXI

Because most everything in Portland is fairly close, getting around by taxi can be economical. Although taxis are almost always waiting in line at major hotels, you won't find them cruising the streets—you'll have to phone for one. **Broadway Cab** (✆ **503/227-1234;** www.broadwaycab.com) and **Radio Cab** (✆ **503/227-1212;** www.radiocab.net) charge $2.50 for the first mile, $2.20 for each additional mile, and $1 for additional passengers.

ON FOOT

City blocks in Portland are about half the size of most city blocks elsewhere, and the entire downtown area covers only about 13 blocks by 26 blocks. This makes Portland a very easy place to explore on foot. The city actively encourages people to get out of their cars and onto the sidewalks downtown. The wide sidewalks are dotted with many fountains, works of art, and small parks with benches.

FAST FACTS: Portland

American Express **Azumano Travel,** 400 SW Stark St. (✆ **800/777-2018** or 503/294-2000), is an American Express Travel Services Representative. For card member services, phone ✆ **800/528-4800.** Call ✆ **800/AXP-TRIP** or go to www.americanexpress.com for other locations or general information.

Babysitters If your hotel doesn't offer babysitting services, call **Northwest Nannies** (✆ **503/245-5288;** www.nwnanny.com).

Business Hours The following are general guidelines; specific establishments' hours may vary. Banks are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm (some also on Sat 9am–noon). Stores are open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm and Sunday from noon to 5pm (malls usually stay open until 9pm Mon–Sat). Bars can stay open until 1am.

Customs **What You Can Bring Into the United States** Every visitor more than 21 years of age may bring in, free of duty, the following: (1) 1 liter of wine or hard liquor; (2) 200 cigarettes, 100 cigars (but not from Cuba), or 3 pounds of smoking tobacco; and (3) $100 worth of gifts. These exemptions are offered to travelers who spend at least 72 hours in the United States and who have not claimed them within the preceding 6 months. It is altogether forbidden to bring into the country foodstuffs (particularly fruit, cooked meats, and canned goods) and plants (vegetables, seeds, tropical plants, and the like). Foreign tourists may carry in or out up to $10,000 in U.S. or foreign currency with no formalities; larger sums must be declared to U.S. Customs on entering or leaving, which includes filing form CM 4790. For details regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection, consult your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or **U.S. Customs** (✆ **202/927-1770;** www.customs.ustreas.gov).

What You Can Take Home from the United States:

Australian Citizens: A helpful brochure available from Australian consulates or Customs offices is *Know Before You Go.* For more information, call the **Australian Customs Service** at ✆ **1300/363-263,** or log on to www.customs.gov.au.

Canadian Citizens: For a clear summary of Canadian rules, write for the booklet *I Declare,* issued by the **Canada Border Services Agency** (✆ **800/461-9999** in Canada, or 204/983-3500; www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

New Zealand Citizens: Most questions are answered in a free pamphlet available at New Zealand consulates and Customs offices: *New Zealand Customs Guide for Travellers, Notice no. 4.* For more information, contact **New Zealand Customs,** The Customhouse, 17–21 Whitmore St., Box 2218, Wellington (✆ **04/473-6099** or 0800/428-786; www.customs.govt.nz).

U.K. Citizens: For information, contact **HM Customs & Excise** at ✆ **0845/010-9000** (from outside the U.K., 020/8929-0152), or consult their website at www.hmce.gov.uk.

Dentist Contact the **Multnomah Dental Society** (✆ **503/513-5010;** www.multnomahdental.org) for a referral.

Doctor If you need a physician referral while in Portland, contact the **Legacy Referral Service** (✆ **503/335-3500;** www.legacyhealth.org).

Drinking Laws The legal minimum drinking age in Oregon is 21. Aside from on-premise sales of cocktails in bars and restaurants, hard liquor can only be purchased in liquor stores. Beer and wine are available in convenience stores and grocery stores. Brewpubs tend to sell only beer and wine, but some also have licenses to sell hard liquor.

Embassies & Consulates All embassies are located in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Some consulates are located in major U.S. cities, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations in New York City. If your country isn't listed below, call for directory information in Washington, D.C. (✆ **202/555-1212**) or log on to www.embassy.org/embassies.

The embassy of **Australia** is at 1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (✆ **202/797-3000;** www.austemb.org). There are consulates in New York, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The embassy of **Canada** is at 501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (✆ **202/682-1740;** www.canadianembassy.org). Other Canadian consulates are in Buffalo (New York), Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, and Seattle.

The embassy of **Ireland** is at 2234 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/462-3939;** www.irelandemb.org). Irish consulates are in Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and other cities. See website for complete listing.

The embassy of **New Zealand** is at 37 Observatory Circle NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/328-4800;** www.nzemb.org). New Zealand consulates are in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The embassy of the **United Kingdom** is at 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/588-7800;** www.britainusa.com). Other British consulates are in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Emergencies Call ✆ **911** for fire, police, and ambulance.

Eyeglass Repair Check out **Binyon's,** 803 SW Morrison St. (✆ **503/226-6688;** www.binyons.com).

Gasoline (Petrol) At press time, in the Portland area, the cost of gasoline (also known as gas, but never petrol), was hovering around $3 per gallon. Taxes are already included in the printed price. One U.S. gallon equals 3.8 liters or .85 imperial gallons. Fill-up locations are known as gas or service stations.

Hospitals Three conveniently located area hospitals are **Legacy Good Samaritan,** 1015 NW 22nd Ave. (✆ **503/413-7711;** www.legacyhealth.org); **Providence Portland Medical Center,** 4805 NE Glisan St. (✆ **503/215-1111;** www.providence.org); and the **Oregon Health & Sciences University Hospital,** 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. (✆ **503/494-8311;** www.ohsu.edu), which is just southwest of the city center and has a drop-in clinic.

Lost & Found Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. Visa's U.S. emergency number is ✆ **800/847-2911** or 410/581-9994. American Express cardholders and traveler's check holders should call ✆ **800/221-7282.** MasterCard holders should call ✆ **800/307-7309** or 636/722-7111. For other credit cards, call the toll-free number directory at ✆ **800/555-1212.**

If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via **Western Union** (✆ **800/325-6000;** www.westernunion.com).

Mail At press time, domestic postage rates were 27¢ for a postcard and 42¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce costs 94¢ (72¢ to Canada and Mexico); a first-class postcard costs 90¢ (69¢ to Canada and Mexico). For more information go to www.usps.com and click on "Calculate Postage."

Newspapers & Magazines Portland's morning daily newspaper is ***The Oregonian.*** For arts and entertainment information and listings, consult the "A&E" section of the Friday *Oregonian* or pick up a free copy of ***Willamette Week*** at Powell's Books and other bookstores, convenience stores, cafes, and sidewalk newspaper boxes. *Portland Monthly* is a good lifestyle monthly that offers plenty of good coverage of what's hot in Portland.

Passports **For Residents of Australia:** You can pick up an application from your local post office or any branch of Passports Australia, but you must schedule an interview at the passport

office to present your application materials. Call the **Australian Passport Information Service** at ✆ **131-232,** or visit the government website at www.passports.gov.au.

For Residents of Canada: Passport applications are available at travel agencies throughout Canada or from the central **Passport Office,** Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G3 (✆ **800/567-6868;** www.ppt.gc.ca). ***Note:*** Canadian children who travel must have their own passport. However, if you hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the name of your child, the passport remains valid for you and your child until it expires.

For Residents of Ireland: You can apply for a 10-year passport at the **Passport Office,** Setanta Centre, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 (✆ **01/671-1633;** www.irlgov.ie/iveagh). Those 17 and under and over 65 must apply for a 3-year passport. You can also apply at 1A South Mall, Cork (✆ **021/272-525**) or at most main post offices.

For Residents of New Zealand: You can pick up a passport application at any New Zealand Passports Office or download it from their website. Contact the **Passports Office** at ✆ **0800/225-050** in New Zealand or 04/474-8100, or log on to www.passports.govt.nz.

For Residents of the United Kingdom: To pick up an application for a standard 10-year passport (5-yr. passport for children 15 and under), visit your nearest passport office, major post office, or travel agency or contact the **United Kingdom Passport Service** at ✆ **0870/521-0410** or search its website at www.ukpa.gov.uk.

Pets Some hotels and motels in Oregon accept small, well-behaved pets. However, a small fee is often charged to allow them into guest rooms. Many places, in particular bed-and-breakfasts, don't allow pets at all. (Policies can change frequently, so always be sure to confirm.) On the other hand, many bed-and-breakfasts have their own pets, so if you have a dog or cat allergy, be sure to mention it when booking a reservation. Pets are usually restricted in national parks for their own safety, so check before setting out.

Pharmacies Convenient to most downtown hotels, **Central Drug,** 538 SW Fourth Ave. (✆ **503/226-2222;** www.centraldrugportland.com), is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Photographic Needs **Camera World,** 400 SW Sixth Ave. (✆ **503/205-5900**), is the largest camera and video store in the city.

Police To reach the police, dial ✆ **911.**

Post Offices The most convenient downtown post office is University Station, 1505 SW Sixth Ave. (✆ **800/ASK-USPS** or 503/274-1362; www.usps.com), open Monday through Friday from 7am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

Smoking Although many of the restaurants listed in this book are smoke-free, many Portland restaurants still allow smoking. That is all scheduled to change in 2009 when an indoor smoking ban goes into effect. Until then, at most high-end restaurants that do allow smoking, the smoking area is usually in the bar/lounge. There are a few nonsmoking bars in Portland.

Taxes Portland is a shopper's paradise—there's no sales tax. However, there is a 12.5% tax on hotel rooms within the city and a 12.5% tax on car rentals (plus an additional airport-use fee if you pick up your rental car at the airport; this additional fee is anywhere from around 10% to around 16%). Outside the city, the room tax varies.

Taxis See section 2, "Getting Around," earlier in this chapter.

Time Zone The continental United States is divided into **four time zones:** Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time (CST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), and Pacific Standard Time (PST). Alaska and Hawaii have their own zones. For example, when it's 9am in Los Angeles (PST), it's 7am in Honolulu (HST),10am in Denver (MST), 11am in Chicago (CST), noon in New York City (EST), 5pm in London (GMT), and 2am the next day in Sydney. Portland is on Pacific Standard Time (PST), making it 3 hours behind the East Coast.

Daylight saving time is in effect from 1am on the second Sunday in March to 1am on the first Sunday in November, except in Arizona, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Daylight saving time moves the clock 1 hour ahead of standard time.

Tipping Tips are a very important part of certain workers' income, and gratuities are the standard way of showing appreciation for services provided. (Tipping is certainly not compulsory if the service is poor!) In hotels, tip **bellhops** at

least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** $1 to $2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area for him or her to clean up). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some specific service (for example, calling a cab for you or obtaining difficult-to-get theater tickets). Tip the **valet-parking attendant** $1 every time you get your car.

In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, tip **checkroom attendants** $1 per garment, and tip **valet-parking attendants** $1 per vehicle.

As for other service personnel, tip **cab drivers** 15% of the fare; tip **skycaps** at airports at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage); and tip **hairdressers** and **barbers** 15% to 20%.

Toilets You won't find public toilets or "restrooms" on the streets in most U.S. cities but they can be found in hotel lobbies, bars, restaurants, museums, department stores, railway and bus stations, and service stations. A public restroom is located underneath Starbucks coffee shop in Pioneer Courthouse Square. Large hotels and fast-food restaurants are often the best bet for clean facilities. If possible, avoid the toilets at parks and beaches, which tend to be dirty; some may be unsafe.

Visas For information about U.S. visas go to **http://travel.state.gov** and click on "Visas." Or go to one of the following websites:

Australian citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information from the **U.S. Embassy Canberra,** Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600 (✆ **02/6214-5600**) or by checking the U.S. Diplomatic Mission's website at **http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/consular**.

British subjects can obtain up-to-date visa information by calling the **U.S. Embassy Visa Information Line** (✆ **0891/200-290**) or by visiting the "Visas to the U.S." section of the American Embassy London's website at www.usembassy.org.uk.

Irish citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information through the **Embassy of the USA Dublin,** 42 Elgin Rd., Dublin 4, Ireland (✆ **353/1-668-8777;** or by checking the "Consular Services" section of the website at http://dublin.usembassy.gov.

Citizens of **New Zealand** can obtain up-to-date visa information by contacting the **U.S. Embassy New Zealand,** 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington (✆ **644/472-2068**), or get the information directly from the website at http://wellington.usembassy.gov.

4

Where to Stay

Whether you're looking for a downtown corporate high-rise, a restored historic hotel, a hip boutique hotel, a romantic B&B, or just something relatively inexpensive, you'll find it in Portland.

If your budget won't allow for a first-class downtown business hotel, try near the airport or elsewhere on the outskirts of the city (Troutdale and Gresham on the east side; Beaverton and Hillsboro on the west; Wilsonville and Lake Oswego in the south; and Vancouver, Washington, in the north), where you're more likely to find inexpensive to moderately priced motels.

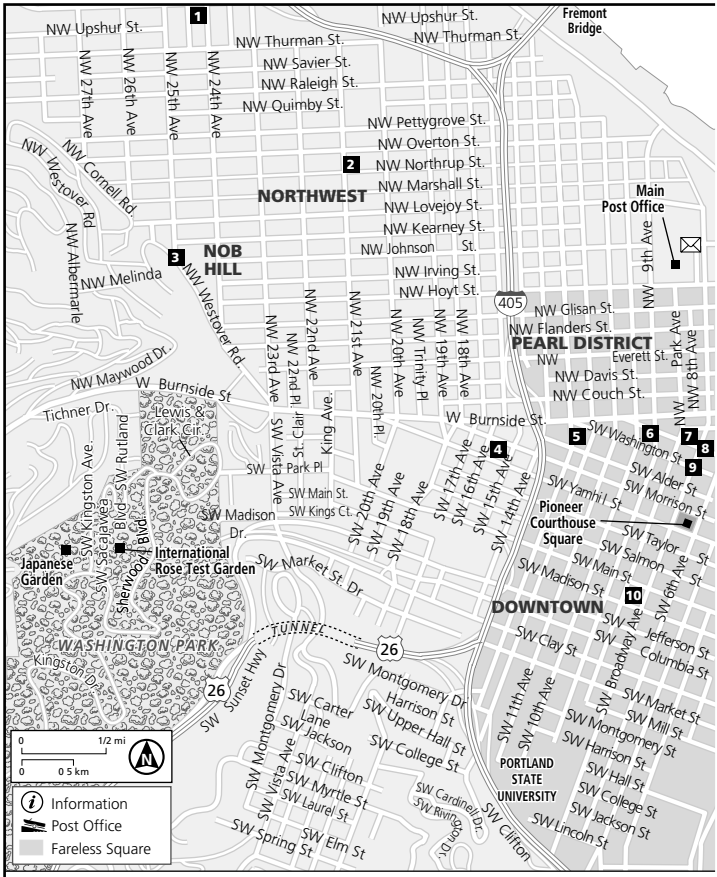
You'll find the greatest concentration of bed-and-breakfasts in the Irvington neighborhood of northeast Portland. This area is close to downtown and is quite convenient even if you are here on business.

In the following listings, price categories are based on the rate for a double room in high season. (Most hotels charge the same for a single or double room.) Keep in mind that the rates listed do not include local room taxes, which vary between 7% and 12.5%.

For comparison purposes, listed are what hotels call "rack rates," or walk-in rates—but you should never have to pay these highly inflated prices. Various discounts (AAA, senior, corporate, and Entertainment Book) often reduce these rates, so be sure to ask (and check each hotel's website for Internet specials). In fact, you can often get a discounted corporate rate simply by flashing a business card (your own, that is). At inexpensive chain motels, there are almost always discounted rates for AAA members and seniors.

You'll also find that room rates are almost always considerably lower October through April (the rainy season), and large downtown hotels often offer weekend discounts of up to 50% throughout the year. Some of the large, upscale hotel chains have now gone to an airline-type rate system based on occupancy, so if you call early enough, before a hotel books up, you might get a really good rate. On the other hand, call at the last minute and you might catch a cancellation and still be offered a low rate. If you're planning to visit during the busy summer months, it's always advisable to make reservations

Where to Stay in Portland



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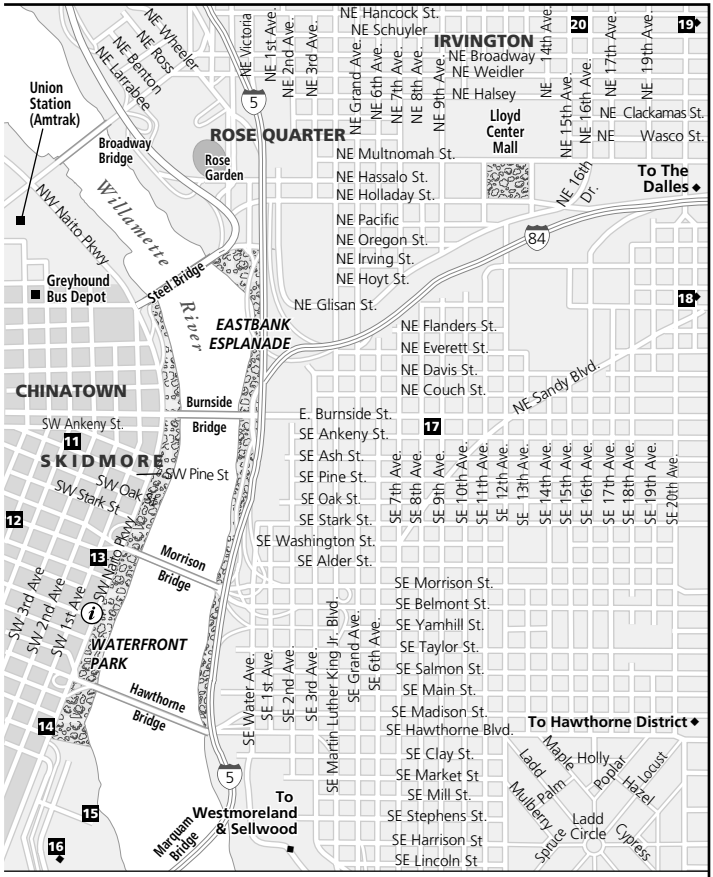

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as far in advance as possible. Also be sure to ask about special packages (romance, golf, or theater), which most of the more expensive hotels usually offer.

Most hotels offer nonsmoking rooms, and most bed-and-breakfasts are exclusively nonsmoking. The majority of hotels also offer wheelchair-accessible rooms.

HELPING HANDS

If you're having trouble booking a room, try **Travel Portland,** 701 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97205 (✆ **877/678-5263** or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com), which offers a reservation service for the Portland metro area.

For information on **bed-and-breakfasts** in the Portland area, call Travel Portland or contact the **Oregon Bed and Breakfast Guild** (✆ **800/944-6196;** www.obbg.org).

1 Downtown

EXPENSIVE

Avalon Hotel & Spa ★★★ This hotel sits right on the banks of the Willamette River a mile south of downtown and half a mile south of the new South Waterfront District. Although this location is a bit inconvenient for exploring the city on foot, the riverside bike path right in front of the hotel makes this a good bet if you're a jogger or like to take leisurely walks. The Avalon's contemporary decor makes it one of the most stylish hotels in the city, and the riverfront rooms, most of which have balconies, provide good views and a chance to breath in some fresh air. The hotel's stylish restaurant boasts the same great river views and walls of glass to make the most of the setting. A full-service spa gives this luxurious boutique hotel the feel of a much larger resort.

0455 SW Hamilton Court, Portland, OR 97239. ✆ **888/556-4402** or 503/802-5800. Fax 503/802-5820. www.avalonhotelandspa.com. 99 units. $160–$215 double; $285–$650 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $15. **Amenities:** Restaurant (Italian); lounge; health club; day spa; concierge; courtesy car; business center; room service; massage; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

The Heathman Hotel The Heathman has long been considered one of Portland's top hotels, but in many ways this hotel suffers from an identity crisis. An incongruous beefeater doorman ushers guests into a minimalist lobby that is adjacent to an utterly traditional "tea court," which itself is adjacent to the hotel's French restaurant,

which is owned by the McCormick and Schmick's restaurant chain and is decorated with Andy Warhol prints. Most standard guest rooms are done in a vaguely Art Deco motif that feels quite cluttered. The over-decorated rooms tend to feel even smaller than they actually are, and the basic rooms are definitely small (upgrade to a suite if you can).

1001 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **800/551-0011** or 503/241-4100. Fax 503/790-7110. www.heathmanhotel.com. 150 units. $199–$249 double; $249–$1,000 suite. Children 12 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $29. Pets accepted ($35). **Amenities:** Restaurant (French/Northwest, p. 60); lounge; exercise room and access to nearby health club; concierge; 24-hr. room service; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Hotel Deluxe ★★ If you're a fan of Hollywood movies from the 1930s to 1950s, then this glamorous hotel should be your first choice in Portland. Not only is the hotel decorated with old photos of movie stars, but the lobby, with its potted palms, gilded plasterwork ceiling, and crystal chandeliers is prime for an entrance by Fred and Ginger. Guest rooms are equally classic, though with a hip aesthetic geared toward younger travelers. The rooms are decked out with iPod docks and flat-panel HDTVs, plus pillow-top mattresses and pillow menus. Sure, the basic rooms are small, but they're so pretty, it's easy to overlook the tight quarters. In summer, outdoor movies are shown on top of the hotel's parking garage.

729 SW 15th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **866/895-2094** or 503/219-2094. Fax 503/219-2095. www.hoteldeluxeportland.com. 130 units. $169–$215 double; $239–$275 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $16. Pets accepted ($45 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); lounge; exercise room; business center; 24-hr. room service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, HDTV, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

Hotel Lućia ★★ Portland may not have a W Hotel, but it does have the Lućia, which is just as hip. Located across from the prestigious and very traditional Benson hotel, the Lućia is the Portland address of choice for young business travelers with a taste for contemporary style. There's a big emphasis on the visual arts here, with paintings by Northwest artists on the lobby walls, and black-and-white photos by famed White House photographer David Hume Kennerly throughout the hotel. Guest rooms are some of the prettiest in the city, with great beds and bathrooms that have lots of chrome and frosted-glass counters. The hotel's restaurant, **Typhoon!** (p. 69), is one of Portland's best Thai restaurants.

400 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **877/225-1717** or 503/225-1717. Fax 503/225-1919. www.hotellucia.com. 127 units. $159–$289 double; $339–$759 suite. Children 12 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $29. Pets accepted ($45 fee). **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (Thai, Asian fusion); 2 lounges; exercise room; concierge; business center; 24-hr. room service; massage; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

Hotel Monaco ★★ Located a block from Pioneer Courthouse Square and within a few blocks of the best downtown shopping, this unpretentious yet sophisticated hotel is housed in what was originally a department store. Artwork by Northwest artists fills the lobby, and the afternoons feature a complimentary wine tasting. Guest rooms, most of which are suites, are done in a whimsical decor—striped wallpaper, big padded headboards on the beds, red couches. In other words, colors and patterns everywhere, but it all comes together in a pleasantly theatrical fashion that makes these some of my favorite rooms in Portland. Plus, bathrooms have lots of counter space. In the suites, sliding French doors with curtains divide the living room from the bedrooms.

506 SW Washington St., Portland, OR 97204. ✆ **888/207-2201** or 503/222-0001. Fax 503/222-0004. www.monaco-portland.com. 221 units. $149–$289 double; $159–$459 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $29. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); lounge; exercise room; access to nearby health club; bike rentals; concierge; children's programs; business center; room service; massage; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, minibar, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

RiverPlace Hotel ★★★ With the Willamette River at its back doorstep and the sloping lawns of Waterfront Park to one side, the RiverPlace is Portland's only downtown waterfront hotel. This alone would be enough to recommend the hotel, but its quiet boutique-hotel atmosphere makes it an excellent choice regardless. Understated contemporary furnishings and plush beds make this a very comfortable choice, and more than half the rooms are suites, some of which have wood-burning fireplaces and whirlpool baths. However, the riverview standard king rooms are the best deal. The hotel's restaurant and bar with a patio overlook the river.

1510 SW Harbor Way, Portland, OR 97201. ✆ **800/227-1333** or 503/228-3233. Fax 503/295-6190. www.riverplacehotel.com. 84 units. $189–$239 double; $219–$269 junior suite; $219 and up suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $25. Pets accepted ($45 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant (Northwest); lounge; access to nearby health club; day spa; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; business center; room service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

MODERATE

The Benson ★★★ Built in 1912, The Benson exudes old-world sophistication and elegance. In the French baroque lobby, walnut paneling frames a marble fireplace, Austrian crystal chandeliers hang from the ornate plasterwork ceiling, and a marble staircase allows for grand entrances. These are the poshest digs in Portland, and guest rooms are luxuriously furnished in a plush Euro-luxe styling. Rooms vary considerably in size, and most of the deluxe kings are particularly spacious. However, the corner junior suites, which are large and have lots of windows, are the hotel's best deal. All the guest rooms have Tempur-Pedic mattresses. Bathrooms, unfortunately, are small and have little shelf space. The hotel's London Grill is well known for its Sunday brunch, and El Gaucho, just off the lobby, serves some of the best steaks in Portland. In the lobby, the elegant Palm Court lounge has live jazz in the evenings.

309 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **888/523-6766** or 503/228-2000. Fax 503/471-3920. www.bensonhotel.com. 287 units. $139–$229 double; $209–$299 junior suite; $450–$1,100 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $28. Pets accepted ($75). Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. **Amenities:** 3 restaurants (Northwest/Continental, steak); lounge; exercise room; access to nearby health club; concierge; business center; 24-hr. room service; massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, iron.

Embassy Suites ★ *Kids* *Value* Located in the restored former Multnomah Hotel, which originally opened in 1912, the Embassy Suites has a beautiful large lobby that is a masterpiece of gilded plasterwork. The accommodations here are primarily two-room suites, with the exception of a handful of studio suites. In keeping with the historic nature of the hotel, the suites have classically styled furnishings. What's much more important, though, is that they give you lots of room to spread out, a rarity in downtown hotels. The hotel's Portland Steak and Chophouse has a classic dark and woody steakhouse decor as well as a large bar.

319 SW Pine St., Portland, OR 97204. ✆ **800/EMBASSY** or 503/279-9000. Fax 503/497-9051. www.embassyportland.com. 276 units. $139–$209 double. Rates include full breakfast and nightly manager's reception. Children 18 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $23; self-parking $15. **Amenities:** Restaurant (steak); lounge; indoor pool; exercise room; access to nearby health club; day spa; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; car-rental desk; courtesy van; business center; room service; massage; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Hotel Fifty ★ *Value* Overlooking Waterfront Park and located on the MAX light-rail line, this 1960s vintage hotel is nondescript from the outside, but the inside has a contemporary look that makes it surprisingly stylish for an economically priced hotel. You are only steps from the Willamette River (although not actually on the water), and are also close to businesses, fine restaurants, and shopping. Guest rooms are comfortable and have a modern styling.

50 SW Morrison St., Portland, OR 97204. ✆ **877/505-7220** or 503/221-0711. Fax 503/484-1417. www.hotelfifty.com. 140 units. $119–$229 double; $259–$289 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $15. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American/International); lounge; exercise room; access to nearby health club; business center; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Hotel Vintage Plaza ★★ This hotel, which was built in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places, is *the* place to stay in Portland if you are a wine lover. A wine theme predominates in the hotel's decor; complimentary evening tastings feature Northwest wines. Though the standard rooms are worth recommending, the starlight rooms and bi-level suites are the real scene stealers. The starlight rooms in particular are truly extraordinary: Though small, they have solarium-style windows that provide very romantic views at night and let in floods of light during the day. The bi-level suites, some with Japanese soaking tubs, are equally attractive spaces. Their Pazzo Ristorante is a sort of contemporary trattoria.

422 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **800/243-0555** or 503/228-1212. Fax 503/228-3598. www.vintageplaza.com. 107 units. $139–$259 double; $165–$399 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $29. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant (Italian); lounge; exercise room; access to nearby health club; concierge; business center; 24-hr. room service; massage; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Located just across Waterfront Park and Naito Parkway from the Willamette River, the high-rise Portland Marriott offers great views of Mount Hood from its upper east-side rooms, and this alone would be reason enough to stay here. That the park across the street serves as the site of virtually all of Portland's main festivals also makes it a good choice if you're in town for one of these festivals. Otherwise, this standard corporate high-rise doesn't have a whole lot of character. Most of the guest rooms have small balconies.

1401 SW Naito Pkwy., Portland, OR 97201. ✆ **800/228-9290** or 503/226-7600. Fax 503/221-1789. www.marriott.com/pdxor. 503 units. $109–$259 double; $400–$600

suite. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $26. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (American); 1 lounge; indoor pool; exercise room; access to nearby health club; Jacuzzi; concierge; business center; room service; coin-op laundry; laundry service; dry cleaning; concierge level. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

INEXPENSIVE

Ace Hotel Bauhaus meets industrial salvage center at this über-hip hotel a block away from Powell's City of Books. Young creative types will adore this fun and funky place that conjures up cheap European hotels of the past. In the lobby, a large, old industrial door serves as a giant coffee table, while over in the corner sits a vintage photo booth. Every guest room is different, with very unusual murals on the walls. Pendleton blankets cover the platform beds, and, in rooms with private bathrooms, you might find an old wooden apple crate serving as a step up into the clawfoot tub. Book one of the larger rooms, and you can play vinyl records on a genuine turntable. How cool is that? A hip espresso bar and eclectic restaurant are off the lobby. Ask for a room in back if you're a light sleeper.

1022 SW Stark St., Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **503/228-2277.** Fax 503/228-2297. www.acehotel.com/portland. 79 units (10 with shared bath). $95 double with shared bath; $140 double with private bath; $250 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $20. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (New American, deli); espresso bar; lounge; bike rental; concierge; business center; room service; coin-op laundry; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, minibar.

The Mark Spencer Hotel *Value* This economically priced downtown hotel just off West Burnside Street is ideally situated around the corner from both Powell's City of Books (p. 109) and Jake's Famous Crawfish (p. 64). The trendy Pearl District begins only a couple of blocks from the hotel, and the Portland Streetcar stops nearby. The rooms and suites here are a bit dated in their decor, but all have kitchenettes. When you've had enough of wandering the city streets, head up to the hotel's rooftop garden deck for a different perspective on Portland. The Mark Spencer is a favorite of touring Broadway shows when they're in town.

409 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. ✆ **800/548-3934** or 503/224-3293. Fax 503/223-7848. www.markspencer.com. 101 units. $79–$139 double; $99–$179 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking $16. Pets accepted ($10 per day). **Amenities:** Access to nearby health club; concierge; business center; coin-op laundry; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, kitchen, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

2 Nob Hill & Northwest Portland

EXPENSIVE

Heron Haus ★ A short walk from the bustling Nob Hill shopping and dining district of Northwest Portland, the Heron Haus B&B offers outstanding accommodations, spectacular views, and tranquil surroundings. Surprisingly, the house still features some of the original plumbing. In most places this would be a liability, but not here, since the same man who plumbed Portland's famous Pittock Mansion (p. 92) did the plumbing here. A few of that building's unusual bathroom features are also found at the Heron Haus—one shower has *seven* showerheads. Another room has a modern whirlpool spa with excellent views of the city. All the rooms have fireplaces.

2545 NW Westover Rd., Portland, OR 97210. ✆ **503/274-1846.** Fax 503/248-4055. www.heronhaus.com. 6 units. $135–$350 double. Rates include continental breakfast. MC, V. Free parking. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, hair dryer, iron.

MODERATE

Inn @ Northrup Station ★ *Finds* Colorful, hip, retro. That about sums up this hotel in the trendy Nob Hill neighborhood. On top of this high style, the hotel has large rooms with kitchens or kitchenettes, and the Portland Streetcar stops right outside the hotel, which makes this a convenient hotel for exploring the city's most interesting neighborhoods. The colorful retro decor really sets this all-suite hotel apart from more cookie-cutter corporate hotels around town, and if you appreciate bright colors and contemporary styling, this should be your first choice in town. Lots of the rooms here have balconies, and the hotel has a roof-top terrace. The hotel's location in a quiet residential neighborhood is another plus, and some of Portland's top restaurants are within a short walk.

2025 NW Northrup St., Portland, OR 97209. ✆ **800/224-1180** or 503/224-0543. Fax 503/273-2102. www.northrupstation.com. 70 units. $129–$199 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer.

Silver Cloud Inn Portland Downtown ★ This hotel is on the edge of Portland's trendy Nob Hill neighborhood, and though it's also near an industrial area, it is still a very attractive and comfortable place (ask for a room away from Vaughn St.). Reasonable rates are the main draw here, but the rooms are also well designed. The minisuites have microwave ovens, and separate seating areas, but the

Kids Family-Friendly Hotels

Embassy Suites (p. 51) Located in the center of the city, this renovated historic hotel offers spacious rooms (mostly two-room suites). You and the kids will have room to spread out, and you can hang out by the indoor pool when you tire of exploring Portland.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland (p. 58) This hotel is on the north side of the Columbia River, in Vancouver, Washington. A paved riverside trail, a fun family restaurant, and a brewpub all add up to convenience for families. That you'll get a one- or two-bedroom apartment with a full kitchen just makes life on vacation that much easier.

The Lakeshore Inn (p. 59) This reasonably priced inn is right on the shore of the lake, and it also has a pool. The big rooms with kitchenettes are great for families; for more space, opt for a one- or two-bedroom suite.

king minisuites with whirlpool tubs are my favorites. The best thing about the hotel is its location within a 5-minute drive (or 15-min. walk) of a half dozen of the city's best restaurants. To find the hotel, take I-405 to Ore. 30 west and get off at the Vaughn Street exit.

2426 NW Vaughn St., Portland, OR 97210. ✆ **800/205-6939** or 503/242-2400. Fax 503/242-1770. www.silvercloud.com. 82 units. $139–$189 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Exercise room; courtesy shopping shuttle; business center; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

3 Northeast & Southeast Portland

EXPENSIVE

Lion and the Rose Victorian Bed & Breakfast Inn ★ This imposing Queen Anne–style Victorian inn, located in the historic Irvington District 1 block off Northeast Broadway, is a real gem. The Lavonna Room has a turret sitting area and a Sleep Number bed, while in the Starina Room you'll find an imposing Edwardian bed and armoire. The Garden Room has a claw-foot tub; other bathrooms are small but attractive. If you have problems climbing stairs,

ask for the ground floor's Rose Room, which has a whirlpool tub. Breakfasts are sumptuous affairs, great for lingering. Restaurants, cafes, eclectic boutiques, and a huge shopping mall are all within 4 blocks.

1810 NE 15th Ave., Portland, OR 97212. ✆ **800/955-1647** or 503/287-9245. Fax 503/287-9247. www.lionrose.com. 7 units. $134–$224 double. No children 9 and under. AE, DISC, MC, V. Rates include full breakfast. 2-night minimum on holiday weekends. **Amenities:** Concierge. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, free local calls, hair dryer, iron.

Portland's White House ★★ With massive columns framing the entrance, a semicircular driveway, and a bubbling fountain in the front garden, this imposing Greek-revival mansion bears a more than passing resemblance to its namesake in Washington, D.C. Behind the mahogany front doors, a huge entrance hall with original hand-painted murals is flanked by a parlor and the formal dining room, where the large breakfast is served beneath crystal chandeliers. A double staircase leads past a large stained-glass window to the second-floor accommodations. Canopy beds, brass beds, antique furnishings, and bathrooms with claw-foot tubs further the feeling of classic luxury here. Request the balcony room, and you can gaze out past the Greek columns and imagine you're in the Oval Office. The restored carriage house also has three rooms.

1914 NE 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97212. ✆ **800/272-7131** or 503/287-7131. Fax 503/249-1641. www.portlandswhitehouse.com. 8 units. $125–$225 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi.

INEXPENSIVE

Everett Street Guesthouse *Finds* No teddy bears, no frilly curtains, no potpourri—that's the mantra at this gorgeous little hideaway on a quiet residential street in northeast Portland. Innkeeper Terry Rusinow, who once owned a craft gallery in the California wine country, has an impeccable eye for interior decor, so public spaces and guest rooms here are beautifully decorated. This little homestay-style inn has only two rooms, and, at press time, was adding a small sleeping cottage with a kitchenette. When you stay in the main house, you almost feel as though you've rented the entire place. Note that this is a no-smoking and perfume-free house, and there is a resident cat. The neighborhood has loads of great restaurants within walking distance.

2306 NE Everett St., Portland, OR 97232. ✆ **503/230-0211** or 503/830-0650. http://tmr.rusin.googlepages.com. 3 units. $75–$95 double. Rates include continental breakfast. No credit cards. No children. 2-night minimum. **Amenities:** Concierge; bike rentals; art-studio tours. *In room:* Wi-Fi, no phone.

Jupiter Hotel *Finds* Although this place calls itself a boutique hotel, it's actually a boutique motel. The Jupiter has had an extreme makeover and is now an über-hip address for the Portland arts crowd and those in town to participate in the city's hip scene. With its glowing blue wall panels, piped in music in the courtyard, and log-cabin swank Doug Fir Lounge, the Jupiter has enough going on to keep the party going all night long, so don't plan on getting much sleep if you stay here. Platform beds, fuzzy pillows, photo-murals on the walls, retro accents, and dim lighting (or is it supposed to be romantic lighting?) provide guest rooms with plenty of retro-hip styling for young travelers on a tight budget.

800 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR 97214. ✆ **877/800-0004** or 503/230-9200. www.jupiterhotel.com. 80 units. $99–$149 double; $350–$400 suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (New American); lounge; massage. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, hair dryer.

McMenamins Kennedy School *Finds* The Kennedy School, which was an elementary school from 1915 to 1975, is owned by the same folks who turned Portland's old poor farm into the most entertaining and unusual lodge in the state (see the listing for McMenamins Edgefield, on p. 59). In the guest rooms you'll still find the original blackboards and great big school clocks (you know, like the one you used to watch so expectantly). However, the classroom/guest rooms here now have their own bathrooms, so you won't have to raise your hand or walk down the hall. On the premises you'll also find a restaurant, movie theater pub, cigar bar, and big hot soaking pool. The Kennedy School is located well north of stylish Irvington neighborhood in an up-and-coming part of the city that dates from the early years of the 20th century.

5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland, OR 97211. ✆ **888/249-3983** or 503/249-3983. www.mcmenamins.com. 35 units. $99–$125 double. Children 6 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); 4 lounges; soaking pool. *In room:* A/C, Wi-Fi.

4 Vancouver, Washington

Just across the Columbia River from Portland, Vancouver, Washington, is an economical area from which to explore Portland.

MODERATE

The Heathman Lodge ★★ *Value* Mountain lodge meets urban chic at this suburban hotel adjacent to the Vancouver Mall. Just 20 minutes by car from downtown Portland, the hotel is well placed for exploring both the Columbia Gorge and Mount St. Helens. With its

log, stone, and cedar-shingle construction, this hotel conjures up the Northwest's historic mountain lodges. As at Timberline Lodge on Oregon's Mount Hood, the Heathman Lodge is filled with artwork and embellished with rugged Northwest-inspired craftwork, including totem poles, Eskimo kayak frames, and Pendleton blankets. Guest rooms feature a mix of rustic pine and peeled-hickory furniture, as well as rawhide lampshades and Pendleton-inspired bedspreads. Most rooms also have Tempur-Pedic mattresses.

7801 NE Greenwood Dr., Vancouver, WA 98662. ✆ **888/475-3100** or 360/254-3100. Fax 360/254-6100. www.heathmanlodge.com. 142 units. $79–$149 double; from $159-$350 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (Northwest); lounge; indoor pool; exercise room; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; business center; room service; guest laundry; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, Wi-Fi, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland ★ *Kids*
Located across the street from the Columbia River, this modern all-suite hotel is a great choice for families. The hotel charges surprisingly reasonable rates for large apartmentlike accommodations that include full kitchens. Rates include not only a large breakfast, but afternoon snacks as well (Mon–Thurs). These snacks are substantial enough to pass for dinner if you aren't too hungry. The hotel is right across the street from a beach-theme restaurant, a brewpub, and a paved riverside path that's great for walking or jogging. The only drawback is that it's a 15- to 20-minute drive to downtown Portland.

701 SE Columbia Shores Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. ✆ **800/CALL-HOME** or 360/750-1100. Fax 360/750-4899. www.homewoodsuites.com. 104 units. $139–$259 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. Pets accepted ($25 1st day, $10 subsequent days). **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; sports court; exercise room; Jacuzzi; business center; coin-op laundry; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, free local calls, kitchen, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

5 The Airport Area & Troutdale

INEXPENSIVE

Clarion Hotel *Value* Conveniently located right outside the airport, this hotel has one of the best backyards of any hotel in the Portland area. A lake, lawns, and trees create a tranquil setting despite the proximity of both the airport and a busy nearby road. Rooms are designed primarily for business travelers, but even if you aren't here on an expense account, the rooms are a good value, especially those with whirlpool tubs or gas fireplaces. Best of all, almost every room has a view of the lake. An indoor pool is another big plus. To find

this hotel, take the complimentary airport shuttle or head straight out of the airport, drive under the I-205 overpass, and watch for the hotel sign ahead on the left.

11518 NE Glenn Widing Dr., Portland, OR 97220. ✆ **800/424-6423** or 503/252-2222. Fax 503/257-7008. www.choicehotels.com. 101 units. $75–$135 double. Rates include full breakfast. Children 18 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Indoor pool; exercise room; Jacuzzi; courtesy airport shuttle; business center; guest laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

McMenamins Edgefield ★ *Finds* Ideally situated for exploring the Columbia Gorge and Mount Hood, this flagship of the McMenamins microbrewery empire is the former Multnomah County poor farm. Today, the property includes not only tastefully decorated guest rooms with antique furnishings, but a brewery, a pub, a beer garden, a restaurant, a movie theater, a winery, a wine-tasting room, a distillery, a golf course, a cigar bar in an old shed, and extensive gardens. With so much in one spot, this makes a great base for exploring the area. The beautiful grounds give this inn the feel of a remote retreat, though you are still within 30 minutes of Portland.

2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale, OR 97060. ✆ **800/669-8610** or 503/669-8610. www.mcmenamins.com. 114 units (100 with shared bathroom). $50–$139 double with shared bathroom; $116–$147 double with private bathroom; $30 hostel bed per person. Children 6 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 3 restaurants (Northwest, American); 6 lounges; soaking pool; par-3 golf course; spa; massage. *In room:* Wi-Fi, no phone.

6 Westside Suburbs

INEXPENSIVE

The Lakeshore Inn *Finds* *Kids* Considering that the town of Lake Oswego is Portland's most affluent bedroom community, this motel is quite reasonably priced. It's right on the shore of the lake, and features a pool on a deck built on the water's edge, making it a great place to stay in summer. Rooms have standard motel furnishings but are large and have kitchenettes. You can also book into a one- or two-bedroom suite. The 7-mile drive into downtown Portland follows the Willamette River and is quite pleasant. Several restaurants and cafes are within walking distance.

210 N. State St., Lake Oswego, OR 97034. ✆ **800/215-6431** or 503/636-9679. Fax 503/636-6959. www.thelakeshoreinn.com. 33 units. $84–$109 double; $99–$179 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; access to nearby health club. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, Wi-Fi, free local calls, kitchen, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

5 Where to Dine

The Portland restaurant scene is hot and it's not just because of all the wood ovens that have been going in to new restaurants in the past couple of years. The city has recently developed a reputation to rival Seattle's when it comes to great restaurants. What's driving this restaurant renaissance are lots of creative young chefs and their affinity for local produce and wines from Willamette Valley wineries. The bounteous ingredients that can be sourced locally is mind boggling. There are organic fruits and vegetables to be had, local hazelnuts and walnuts, wild mushrooms, even Oregon truffles. Pinot noir, pinot gris, pinot blanc. The list goes on and on. All I can say is, cheers!

The only catch to the Portland dining scene is that it is spread out, and some of the most talked-about restaurants are basically neighborhood spots in up and coming residential districts away from the city center. Even more inconvenient is that these great neighborhood restaurants often don't take reservations. For this reason, I'm still partial to the less hyped but more reliable restaurants downtown and in the Pearl District and the Nob Hill/Northwest neighborhoods. Call me old-fashioned, but I'm just not interested in waiting three hours for a table when I'm going to spend $50 or $60 on dinner.

1 Downtown (Including the Skidmore Historic District & Chinatown)

EXPENSIVE

The Heathman Restaurant and Bar ★★★ NORTHWEST/FRENCH Serving Northwest cuisine with a French accent, the Heathman Restaurant is Portland's grande dame nouvelle/regional restaurant. Philippe Boulot, a James Beard Foundation Award winner, changes his menu daily, but one thing remains constant: The ingredients used are the freshest of Oregon and Northwest seafood, meat, wild game, and produce. The interior is Art Deco inspired, the atmosphere bistrolike. An extensive wine list spotlights Oregon wines. The Heathman Hotel has an extensive collection of classic

and contemporary art, and on the restaurant walls you'll find Andy Warhol's *Endangered Species* series.

In the Heathman Hotel (p. 48), 1001 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/790-7752.** www.heathmanrestaurantandbar.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $9–$22 lunch, $18–$35 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 6:30–11am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5:30–10pm; Fri 6:30–11am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5:30–11pm; Sat 6:30am–3pm and 5:30–11pm; Sun 6:30am–3pm and 5:30–10pm.

Higgins ★★★ NORTHWEST/MEDITERRANEAN Higgins strikes a perfect balance between contemporary and classic in both decor and cuisine. The menu, which changes frequently, explores contemporary culinary horizons, while the decor in the tri-level dining room opts for wood paneling and elegant place settings. Despite all this, the restaurant remains unpretentious, and portions can be surprisingly generous for a high-end restaurant. Flavors change with the season, but are often both subtle and earthy. Such dishes as a risotto of chanterelle mushrooms, pumpkin, and chilies highlight the restaurant's emphasis on seasonal ingredients. Be sure to leave room for dessert, and if you happen to be a beer lover, you'll be glad to know that Higgins has one of the most interesting beer selections in town (and plenty of good wine, too).

1239 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/222-9070.** www.higgins.ypguides.net. Reservations recommended. Main courses $8.50–$17 lunch, $20–$32 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–10:30pm; Sat–Sun 5–10:30pm; bistro menu served in the bar Mon–Fri 2pm–midnight and Sat–Sun 4pm–midnight.

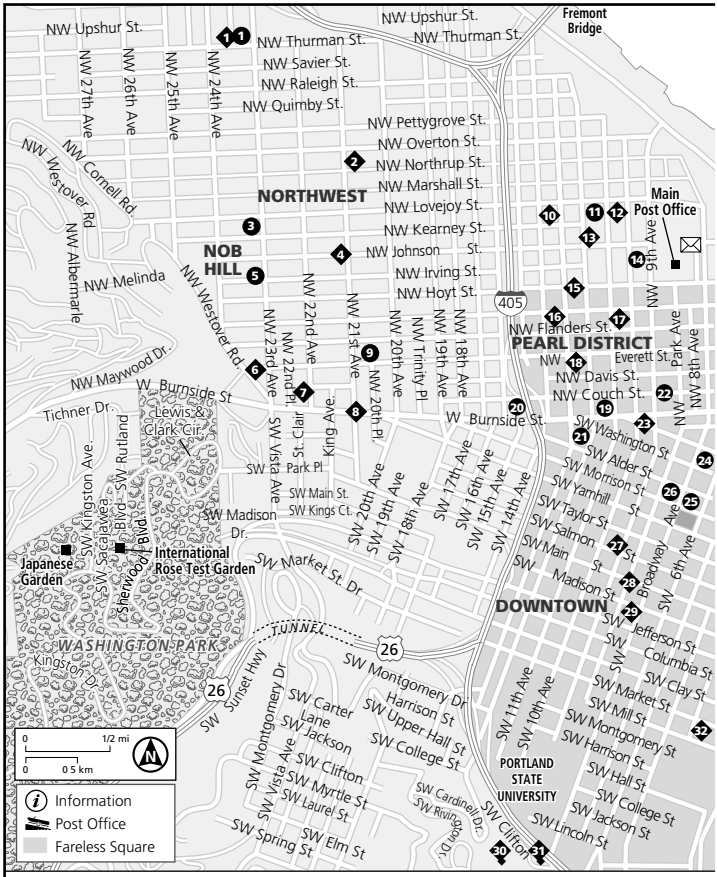
Veritable Quandary ★★ NEW AMERICAN With the prettiest garden patio in downtown Portland, the VQ, as it's known to locals, is a little historic gem of a restaurant and should not be missed on a summer visit. The restaurant is conveniently located in an old brick building just a block off Tom McCall Waterfront Park, and windows and the patio look out on a small tree-shaded pocket park. The menu changes daily, but keep an eye out for the grilled prawns, and don't pass up the *osso buco.* The chef here pulls in all kinds of influences, so don't be surprised if you find bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with goat cheese or duck-confit spring rolls served with wasabi-ginger sauce.

1220 SW First Ave. ✆ **503/227-7342.** www.veritablequandary.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $10–$15 lunch, $19–$28 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5–10pm; Sat–Sun 9:30am–3pm and 5–10pm.

MODERATE

An outpost of **Typhoon!** at 410 SW Broadway (✆ **503/224-8285**), is in the Hotel Lućia. See the complete review on p. 69.

Where to Dine in Portland



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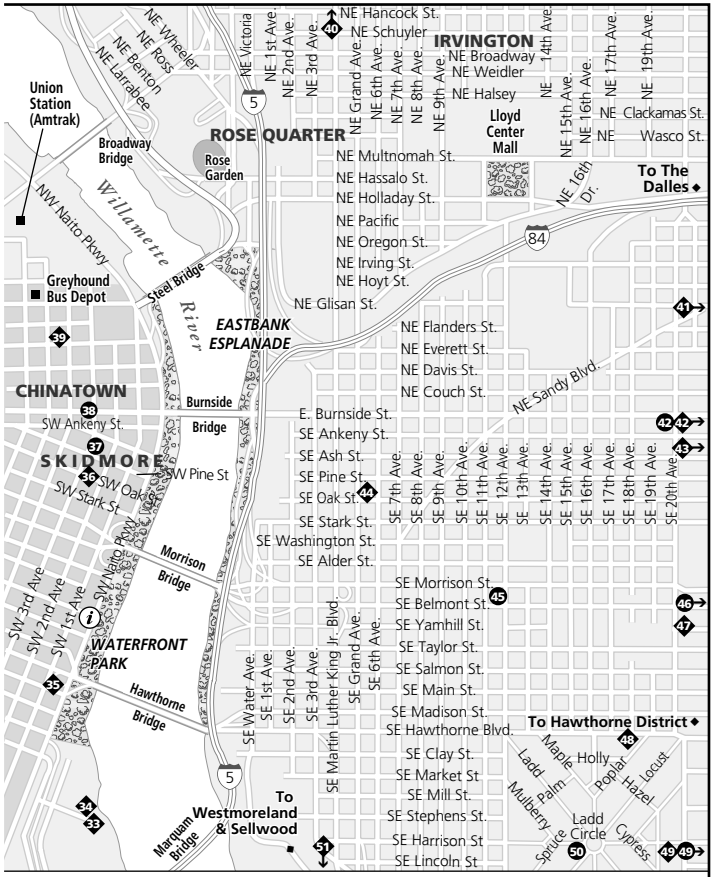

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Carafe Bistro ★★ FRENCH With its small zinc bar, wicker patio chairs, and warm interior hues, Carafe feels just the way you'd expect a neighborhood bistro in Paris to feel. The menu is simple bistro fare (everything from baked escargot to *croque monsieur*), and every night features a three-course prix-fixe dinner for $20. With many appetizers, salads, and side dishes, you can easily assemble a thoroughly Gallic meal. On top of all this, Carafe is right across the street from Keller Auditorium.

200 SW Market St. ✆ **503/248-0004.** www.carafebistro.com. Main courses $8–$21. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–9pm; Fri 11:30am–10pm; Sat 5–10pm.

Jake's Famous Crawfish ★★ SEAFOOD Jake's has been a Portland institution since 1909 and boasts a back bar that came all the way around Cape Horn in 1880. Much of the rest of the decor looks just as old and well worn as the bar and therein lies this restaurant's charm. However, it's the great seafood at reasonable prices that makes this place a real winner. While you could choose from a dozen or more specials, there's really no question about what to eat at Jake's: crawfish, which is always on the menu and served several different ways. Monday through Friday from 3 to 6pm and Monday through Saturday from 10pm to close, bar appetizers are only $1.95. The noise level after work, when local businesspeople pack the bar, can be high, and the wait for a table can be long if you don't make a reservation. Don't let these obstacles put you off, though.

401 SW 12th Ave. ✆ **503/226-1419.** www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $7–$18 lunch, $14–$39 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–11pm; Fri 11am–midnight; Sat noon–midnight; Sun 3–11pm.

Marina Fish House ★ *Kids* SEAFOOD This restaurant, affiliated with Newport Bay restaurants in the Portland area, has by far the best location of any restaurant in town—floating on the Willamette River. Located in the marina at Portland's RiverPlace shopping-and-dining complex, the Marina Fish House provides excellent views of the river and the city skyline, especially from the deck. Popular with young couples, families, and boaters, this place exudes a cheery atmosphere, and service is efficient. Nearly everything on the menu has some sort of seafood in it, even the sandwiches, salads, and pastas. Entrees are straightforward and well prepared—nothing too fancy.

0425 SW Montgomery St. ✆ **503/227-3474.** www.newportbay.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $9–$35; Sun brunch $11–$19. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–11pm.

Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar ★★ *Value* MEDITERRANEAN/SEAFOOD With its high ceiling, long heavy drapes,

and interesting wall mural, the wine bar here is a contemporary interpretation of late-19th-century Paris, and the main dining room is both comfortable and classy. For a starter, don't pass up the fried calamari and vegetables served with spicy aioli. Equally delicious is the butternut squash and ricotta-filled ravioli with toasted hazelnuts, which comes in a rich Marsala wine sauce that begs to be sopped up with the crusty bread. An extensive wine list presents some compelling choices, and the desserts are consistently excellent.

901 SW Salmon St. ✆ **503/326-1300.** Reservations recommended. Main courses $8.50–$16 lunch, $18–$28 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–midnight; Fri 11:30am–1am; Sat 11am–1am; Sun 11am–11pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Bijou Café ★ *Kids* NATURAL FOODS Although the Bijou is ostensibly just a breakfast joint, the folks who run the restaurant take food very seriously. The fresh oyster hash is an absolutely unforgettable way to start the day, as is the brioche French toast. Other big hits include the sautéed potatoes and the muffins, which come with full breakfasts; don't leave without trying them. Local and organic products are used as often as possible at this comfortably old-fashioned, yet thoroughly modern cafe.

132 SW Third Ave. ✆ **503/222-3187.** Breakfast and lunch $6–$13. MC, V. Mon–Fri 7am–2pm; Sat–Sun 8am–2pm.

Fong Chong CHINESE This place may not look like much from the outside (or from the inside, for that matter), but the throngs of people crowding the tables in the middle of the day should give you an idea that this place does good dim sum. This traditional Chinese midday meal of small plates is ordered off of carts that are wheeled around the dining room and is served throughout the day. With lots of steamed dumplings, pot stickers, and shrimp balls, it's easy to order more than you can eat. Pace yourself. Located 2 blocks from the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, this is a great place to stick with the Chinese theme after a visit to the gardens.

301 NW Fourth Ave. ✆ **503/228-6868.** Main courses $6.50–$13; dim sum $3.50–$6.50. MC, V. Mon–Thurs 10am–9pm; Fri–Sun 10am–9:30pm.

2 Northwest Portland (Including the Pearl District & Nob Hill)

EXPENSIVE

Andina ★★ PERUVIAN If you've never had Peruvian food before, don't miss an opportunity to eat at Andina. If you have had Peruvian food before, don't miss an opportunity to eat at Andina. It's

that simple. I've eaten here several times in the same week, because I just couldn't get enough of the spicy bread-dipping sauces, the grilled octopus, and the beautifully presented *causa* (mashed purple potatoes flavored with lime and layered with savory fillings; I like the smoked trout best). Because there is so much on the menu to try, I suggest sticking with the small plates and trying lots of them. Also, be sure to have a glass of the *chicha morada,* a juice made from purple corn.

1314 NW Glisan St. ✆ **503/228-9535.** www.andinarestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Small plates $6.50–$15; main courses $16–$29. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–9:30pm (tapas until 11pm); Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10:30pm (tapas until midnight); Sun 5–9:30pm (tapas until 11pm).

Bluehour ✭ MEDITERRANEAN Restaurateur Bruce Carey has long dominated the Portland restaurant scene, and he perennially wows local trendsetters. Located in a converted warehouse that serves as headquarters for Portland advertising giant Wieden+ Kennedy, Bluehour has a very theatrical atmosphere. With superb service and sophisticated menu items such as American sturgeon caviar and seared foie gras, it's obvious that Bluehour is Portland's most haute restaurant—though this is also the sort of place where being seen by the right people is as important as the food.

250 NW 13th Ave. ✆ **503/226-3394.** www.bluehouronline.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main dishes $10–$26 lunch, $24–$43 dinner. AE, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10pm; Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10:30pm; Sat 5–10:30pm; Sun 5–9pm.

fenouil ✭✭✭ FRENCH Rarely do I feel so good about spending so much on dinner as I do when I eat here at the Pearl District's poshest restaurant. With two-story walls of glass that look out to the pretty little Jamison Square park and with a large patio that puts you right in the park in the summer, fenouil couldn't possibly be better placed. Throw in a gorgeous interior decor, and you have the perfect special-occasion restaurant. Be sure to start with the onion soup, which is the best my wife and I have ever had. Also, no matter what you order for an entree, get a side of truffle-oil french fries. The menu includes plenty of classic dishes, but also holds plenty of unexpected surprises. You can save money by coming for lunch or eating a light meal in the bar.

900 NW 11th Ave. ✆ **503/525-2225.** www.fenouilinthepearl.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $19–$30. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Wed 11am–2pm and 5–9pm; Thurs–Sat 11am–2pm and 5–10pm; Sun 9am–2pm and 5–9pm.

Paley's Place ✭✭ NORTHWEST/FRENCH Located in a Victorian-era house, Paley's is another favorite of Portland foodies. Chef

Vitaly Paley continues to receive accolades year after year, and back in 2005 won a James Beard Foundation Award. The menu relies extensively on the freshest local organic ingredients and ranges from traditional bistro fare to dishes with complex flavors and a hint of Northwest inspiration. Whether you're in the mood for spit-roasted suckling lamb, braised elk shoulder, or corn-and-chanterelle ravioli, you'll certainly find something that appeals to you. If you've never tried sweetbreads, this is the place to do so, and the signature *frites,* with a mustard aioli, are not to be missed. Big on wines, Paley's offers wine tastings on Wednesdays. This restaurant is small and stylishly comfortable but can be quite noisy.

1204 NW 21st Ave. ✆ **503/243-2403.** www.paleysplace.net. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $22–$35. AE, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 5:30–10pm; Fri–Sat 5:30–11pm; Sun 5–10pm.

RingSide Downtown ★ STEAK Despite the location on a rather unattractive stretch of W. Burnside Street, RingSide has been a favorite Portland steakhouse for more than 60 years. Boxing may be the main theme of the restaurant, but the name is a two-fisted pun that also refers to the incomparable onion rings that are an essential part of any meal here. Have your rings with a side order of one of their perfectly cooked steaks for a real knockout meal. The three-course prix-fixe dinners are only $25 if you order before 5:45pm or after 9pm.

2165 W. Burnside St. ✆ **503/223-1513.** www.ringsidesteakhouse.com. Reservations highly recommended. Steaks $28–$65; other main courses $21–$59. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 5pm–midnight; Sun 4–11:30pm.

MODERATE

Caffe Mingo ★★ *Finds* ITALIAN This intimate little neighborhood restaurant has terrific food and relatively reasonable prices. If there's any problem with this immensely popular place it's that you almost always have to wait for a table, and they only take reservations for large parties. The solution? Get here as early as possible. The menu is short, and focuses on painstakingly prepared Italian comfort food. Just about all the items on the menu are winners, from the antipasto platter, which might include roasted fennel, fresh mozzarella, and roasted red pepper, to an unusual penne pasta dish with tender beef braised in chianti and espresso. The *panna cotta* dessert ("cooked cream" with fruit) is reason enough to come back here again and again, even if you have to wait in the rain to get a seat.

807 NW 21st Ave. ✆ **503/226-4646.** Reservations accepted only for parties of 6 or more. Main courses $11–$21. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 5–10pm; Sun 4:30–9:30pm.

Fratelli ★★ REGIONAL ITALIAN In this rustic-yet-chic restaurant, cement walls provide a striking contrast to dramatic draperies and softly glowing candles. Dishes are consistently good, with surprisingly moderate prices for the Pearl District. Be sure to start with the mix-and-match antipasto plate that might include chicken-liver mousse on crostini, roasted Meyer lemon stuffed with buffalo mozzarella, frittata with seasonal vegetables, and a salad of roasted fennel, blood orange, and chicken confit. The polenta with wild mushrooms and the seared chicken wrapped in prosciutto are longtime favorites here.

1230 NW Hoyt St. ✆ **503/241-8800.** www.fratellicucina.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $13–$21. AE, DC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–9pm; Fri–Sat 5–10pm.

patanegra ★ *Finds* SPANISH Located next door to one of my favorite bakeries, this Spanish restaurant specializes in Spanish-style tapas (small plates) but also serves a few different types of paella. Still, I can't ever get past all the flavor-packed little tapas dishes. The best way to approach this rather exotic menu is to just start ordering whatever sounds most interesting and then order more if your first round doesn't fill you up. You can also opt for large orders of all the tapas on the menu. Let me warn you, though, that the tapas menu is heavy on proteins and starches and a bit light on veggies. Oh well, you can always have a salad tomorrow.

1818 NW 23rd Place. ✆ **503/227-7282.** www.patanegra-restaurant.com. Main courses $16–$22; tapas $5.75–$25. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 5–10pm; Fri–Sat 5–11pm.

Piazza Italia ★★ ITALIAN Portland has more than its fair share of good Italian restaurants, but none feels as much like a trip to Italy as this one. The staff speaks Italian most of the time and the TV over the bar is usually tuned to Italian soap operas and soccer matches. Just inside the front door is a glass case full of the imported meats, cheeses, and olives that go into the antipasto plate. This place is small and has a very limited menu, but it's always bustling. Try the simple linguine *squarciarella,* made with eggs, prosciutto, onions, and Parmesan cheese. During the summer, the tables on the sidewalk are the in-demand seats.

1129 NW Johnson St. ✆ **503/478-0619.** www.piazzaportland.com. Main courses $11–$16. Reservations recommended. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–10pm; Sun noon–8pm.

Silk Vietnamese Restaurant & Bar ★ VIETNAMESE If you think of Formica tables and fluorescent lights when you think of Vietnamese restaurants, think again. This is one of the most stylish

restaurants in town, with rippling walls of back-lit glass and decor drawing on a modern Asian aesthetic. The prices, however, are quite reasonable, especially for the Pearl District. You can get flavorful *pho* soup (a Vietnamese staple), but I prefer the more substantial entrees, as well as such unusual dishes as banana-flower salad and the clay-pot catfish.

1012 NW Glisan St. ✆ **503/248-2172.** Reservations recommended. Main courses $8–$16 lunch, $8.75–$24 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11am–3pm and 5–10pm.

Typhoon! ✪ THAI Located just off NW 23rd Avenue, this Thai restaurant is one of my favorites in town for its many unusual menu offerings that generally aren't available at other Portland Thai restaurants. Be sure to start a meal with the *miang kum,* which consists of dried shrimp, tiny chilies, ginger, lime, peanuts, shallots, and toasted coconut drizzled with a sweet-and-sour sauce and wrapped up in a spinach leaf. The burst of flavors on your taste buds is absolutely astounding. (I first had this in Thailand and waited years to get it in the United States.) The whole front wall of the restaurant slides away for Thai-style open-air dining in the summer. There is an extensive tea list.

Another **Typhoon!** is in the Hotel Lućia, at 410 SW Broadway (✆ **503/224-8285;** p. 49).

2310 NW Everett St. ✆ **503/243-7557.** www.typhoonrestaurants.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $9–$18. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2pm and 4:30–9pm; Fri 11:30am–2pm and 4:30–10pm; Sat noon–3pm and 4:30–10pm; Sun noon–3pm and 4:30–9pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Daily Café in the Pearl AMERICAN/SANDWICHES Healthy, flavorful breakfasts and creative sandwiches are the mainstays of this hip-yet-casual urban cafe in the heart of the Pearl District. On sunny days, take your meal out onto the converted loading dock and ogle all the buff people coming and going from the area's gym. In the morning you can get a grilled baguette with Nutella, while at lunch, you might opt for a saltimbocca or fajita panini. This is primarily a lunch spot, but dinners are also served. Other Daily Cafés can be found in southeast Portland inside Rejuvenation House Parts, 1100 SE Grand Ave. (✆ **503/234-8189**); and in the south waterfront district in the OHSU Center for Health and Healing, 3335 SW Bond Ave. (✆ **503/224-9691**).

902 NW 13th Ave. ✆ **503/242-1916.** Main courses $4.75–$6.75 lunch, $15–$18 dinner. AE, MC, V. Mon–Tues 7am–5pm; Wed–Sat 7am–9pm; Sun 9am–2pm.

Elephant's Deli DELI This is definitely not your corner deli and it pushes the boundaries of what can even be considered a deli. Elephant's is a behemoth, which of course makes the name appropriate. Whether you want some pastrami to go or a full gourmet meal, you can get it here, and this is the best place in town to put together a picnic before heading up to Washington Park. Want a cocktail? Elephant's has a full bar and plenty of good appetizers to accompany the drinks. Now, don't you wish you had one of these pachyderms in your town?

115 NW 22nd Ave. ✆ **503/299-6304.** www.elephantsdeli.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $6–$15. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 7am–8:30pm; Sun 9:30am–6:30pm.

3 Southwest Portland

EXPENSIVE

Chart House ★★ SEAFOOD Although this place is a part of a chain with lots of outposts all over California and the rest of the West, it also happens to boast the best view of any restaurant in Portland. On top of that, it serves the best New England clam chowder in the state. While you savor your chowder, you can marvel at the views of the Willamette River, Mount Hood, and Mount St. Helens. Fresh fish—grilled, baked, or blackened—is the house specialty. You'll also find a selection of excellent steaks. No dinner here is complete without the hot chocolate lava cake, which has to be ordered at the start of your meal. I recommend coming here for lunch or the early-bird dinner specials, which cost $15 to $18 and are available Sunday through Thursday between 5 and 6:30pm. Because the Chart House is in a 10-minute drive from downtown Portland, you should be sure to call ahead and get driving directions.

5700 SW Terwilliger Blvd. ✆ **503/246-6963.** www.chart-house.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $9–$22 lunch, $18–$43 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2pm and 5–9:30pm; Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–10pm; Sat 5–10pm; Sun 5–9pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Peanut Butter & Ellie's ★ *Finds* *Kids* AMERICAN This cozy, colorful spot in an upscale southwest Portland neighborhood takes the term "kid-friendly" to the extreme. This place is exclusively for children, though their parents are welcome if they are well behaved. The menu features, you guessed it, peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches (which can be topped with grapes, raisins, shredded carrots, or many other toppings). Okay, so there are soups, salads, chicken

sandwiches, grilled-cheese sandwiches, and even some adult-oriented dinner entrees, but the peanut butter-constructions are the real highlights. Oh, and by the way, the peanut butter is organic and made right here.

4405 SW Vermont St. ✆ **503/282-1783.** www.peanutbutterellies.com. Main courses $5.50–$22. MC, V. Mon 10am–2pm; Tues–Sat 10am–8pm; Sun 10am–7pm.

4 North and Northeast Portland

MODERATE

Pambiche ★ *Finds* CUBAN Driving past this tiny hole-in-the-wall neighborhood eatery, you'd never guess that it's one of Portland's most popular restaurants. But you can't pass by the old building, which is painted garish tropical colors, without giving it a glance. Don't just gawk—get in there! The food is straight out of Havana, with taro-root fritters, codfish-and-potato croquettes, fried yucca root, and fried bananas. And that's just on the appetizer list. Don't fill up on all those tasty little tropical treats, though; the main dishes, such as shrimp Creole, Cuban-style beef hash, and oxtail braised in red wine, are all served in huge portions.

2811 NE Glisan St. ✆ **503/233-0511.** www.pambiche.com. Main courses $7–$10 lunch, $8.50–$18 dinner. MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri 11am–midnight; Sat 7am–midnight; Sun 7am–10pm.

Screen Door ★ SOUTHERN Shrimp and grits, boudin, Carolina pulled-pork barbecue, po-boys. I don't think we're in Oregon anymore, Toto. This casual restaurant just a few blocks from the restaurant-heavy crossroads of E. Burnside Street and 28th Avenue serves down-home Southern comfort food in huge portions, and the northwesterners who eat here seem to love it. Since this is Portland, though, you can get a side of organic vegetables from a weekly list of nearly a dozen different sides/starters. Be sure to order cornbread and the sweet-potato fries.

2337 E. Burnside St. ✆ **503/542-0880.** Reservations not accepted. Main courses $9.75–$15. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Fri 5:30–10pm; Sat 9:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm; Sun 9:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–9pm.

Toro Bravo ★★★ SPANISH I don't usually applaud for a meal, but the first time I ate at this neighborhood restaurant, my dinner companions and I just couldn't help ourselves. A meal here is so filled with seductive flavors that the smile that lights up your face after your first bite (perhaps buttery chanterelle mushrooms or bacon-wrapped, almond-stuffed dates) remains there right through

Kids Family-Friendly Restaurants

Bijou Café (p. 65) Parents who care about the food their children eat will want to bring the family to this cozy old-fashioned diner that serves great breakfasts made with organic ingredients.

Esparza's Tex-Mex Café (p. 74) The ecelctic decorations, varied Tex-Mex menu, and hearty selection of maragaritas at this southeast Portland spot are sure to keep everyone pleased.

Marina Fish House (p. 64) A cheery atmosphere, straightforward meals, and a great location on the Willamette River make this a good family pick.

Peanut Butter & Ellie's (p. 70) This place isn't just family friendly, it's designed exclusively for kids, and, of course, the various peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches are big hits with the little ones.

dessert (olive oil cake with wild huckleberries or maybe a crepe filled with lemon curd). In between, every plate is a revelation—whole fresh anchovies with fried lemon slices, rabbit terrine, creamy duck rillette, seared romanesco cauliflower with chopped olives. Just be sure to order the house-smoked coppa steak—phenomenal. Tapas prices are low, but you'll likely eat enough that the tab will add up.

120 NE Russell St. ✆ **503/281-4464.** www.torobravopdx.com. No reservations. Tapas $1–$14. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–10pm; Fri–Sat 5–11pm.

5 Southeast Portland

EXPENSIVE

Caprial's Bistro & Wine ★★ NORTHWEST If you're a foodie, you're probably already familiar with celebrity chef Caprial Pence, who helped put the Northwest on the national restaurant map and has since gone on to write several cookbooks and host TV and radio food shows. That her eponymous restaurant is a fairly casual place tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood in southeast Portland may come as a surprise. The menu changes monthly and is limited to six or seven main dishes and 10 or so appetizers. Entrees combine perfectly cooked meat and seasonal seafood dishes with

vibrant sauces. Desserts are usually rich without being overly sweet. The wine bar offers a superb selection of wines at reasonable prices.

7015 SE Milwaukie Ave. ✆ **503/236-6457.** www.caprialandjohnskitchen.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $9.50–$12 lunch, $17–$29 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–9pm; Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–9:30pm.

Castagna ★★ FRENCH/ITALIAN Located on a rather nondescript stretch of Hawthorne Boulevard and much removed from the bustle of this commercial area, Castagna is a magnet for Portland foodies. Considering the less-than-stylish location and minimalist (though thoroughly designed) interior, it's obvious that the food's the thing here. Dishes tend toward simple preparations that allow the freshness of the ingredients to express themselves. Entrees such as sautéed sand dabs and prawns with Asian celery, asparagus, potatoes, and lemon-balm cream sum up the dominant culinary aesthetic at this restaurant. In addition to the main dining room, the adjacent cafe serves much simpler and less expensive fare.

1752 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ✆ **503/231-7373.** www.castagnarestaurant.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main dishes $23–$30, 3-course dinner $30; cafe main courses $11–$21. AE, DISC, MC, V. Main restaurant Wed–Thurs 5:30–9:30pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–10:30pm; cafe Tues–Thurs 11:30–2pm and 5–10pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–2pm and 5–11pm, Sun 5–9:30pm.

Genoa ★★★ REGIONAL ITALIAN This has long been the best Italian restaurant in Portland, and with fewer than a dozen tables, it's also one of the smallest. Everything, from the breads to the luscious desserts, is made fresh in the kitchen with the best local seasonal ingredients. The fixed-price menu changes frequently, but a typical dinner might start with an heirloom tomato tart, followed by pumpkin soup with chorizo and squash blossoms. Next might be wild-mushroom agnolotti pasta with grilled pork belly and then seared scallops with hearts of palm, purple carrots, and watermelon. For a main course, you might opt for guinea-hen roulade with ratatouille or suckling pig with candied olives, pickled jalapeños, and bacon broth. Then, of course, comes dessert, which is followed up with petit fours.

2832 SE Belmont St. ✆ **503/238-1464.** www.genoarestaurant.com. Reservations required. Fixed-price a la carte 4-course menu $65; 7-course chef's tasting menu $80. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Sun 5:30–9:30pm.

MODERATE

Ken's Artisan Pizza ★ PIZZA The aroma hits you as soon as you walk in the front door of this causal neighborhood restaurant just a few blocks south of E. Burnside Street. Heavenly aromas mingle

with the tang of wood smoke from the pizza oven. Start your meal with the wood-oven roasted vegetable plate, which comes with a trio of seasonal veggies that are wonderfully sauced. You could make a meal on this platter alone, but since this is a pizza place, you have to have a pie. My wife and I always get fennel sausage and roasted onion, but the *amatriciana,* with house-cured pancetta is good too.

304 SE 28th Ave. (at Pine St.). ✆ **503/517-9951.** www.kensartisan.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $11–$14. MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–10pm.

Lauro Mediterranean Kitchen ★★ MEDITERRANEAN Dark, romantic, and stylish, this sleek southeast Portland restaurant, in one of the city's burgeoning restaurant districts, is well worth the drive out from downtown. I like to start with the Egyptian flatbread with *dukka* (spicy toasted sesame seeds) and honey. The paella is a good bet, but also keep an eye out for lamb shanks, perhaps served with caramelized pears and shallots. Prices here are considerably lower than they would be for comparable food in the Pearl District, so Lauro represents a pretty good value.

3377 SE Division St. ✆ **503/239-7000.** www.laurokitchen.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $11–$21. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–9pm; Fri–Sat 5–10pm.

Pok Pok ★★ THAI I spent part of my childhood in Thailand and have returned many times as an adult, so trust me when I say that Pok Pok is the most authentic Thai restaurant I've ever eaten at outside of Thailand. Not only are the flavors of the dishes here some of the most vibrant and exotic you'll ever taste, but also the whole atmosphere succeeds in conjuring up casual restaurants on the beaches of Thailand. Get the *kai yang* (grilled chicken) and *khao man som tam* (green papaya salad) for an absolute classic straight off the streets of Bangkok. Some people fault this place for serving skimpy portions, but it's the same way in Thailand. Just order another dish; you'll be glad you did.

3226 SE Division St. ✆ **503/232-1387.** www.pokpokpdx.com. Reservations accepted for parties of 5 or more. Main courses $7.50–$14. AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–10:30pm, Sat 5–10:30pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Esparza's Tex-Mex Café *Kids* TEX-MEX With red-eyed cow skulls on the walls and marionettes, model planes, and stuffed iguanas and armadillos hanging from the ceiling, the decor here can only be described as Tex-eclectic, a description that is just as appropriately applied to the menu. Sure there are enchiladas and tamales and tacos, but they might be filled with ostrich or buffalo. Rest assured Esparza's also serves standard ingredients such as chicken and beef.

Main courses come with some pretty good rice and beans, and if you want your meal hotter, they'll toss you a couple of jalapeño peppers. The *nopalitos* (fried cactus) are worth a try, and the margaritas are some of the best in Portland. While you're waiting for a seat (there's almost always a wait), check out the vintage tunes on the jukebox.

2725 SE Ankeny St. ✆ **503/234-7909.** Reservations not accepted. Main courses $8.50–$18. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11:30am–10pm (in summer Fri–Sat until 10:30pm).

Nicholas's *Finds* MIDDLE EASTERN This little hole-in-the-wall on an unattractive stretch of Grand Avenue is usually packed at mealtimes, and it's not the decor or ambience that pulls people in. The big draws are the great food and cheap prices. In spite of the heat from the pizza oven and the crowded conditions, the customers and waitstaff still manage to be friendly. My favorite dish is the *Manakish,* Mediterranean pizza with thyme, oregano, sesame seeds, olive oil, and lemony-flavored sumac. Also available are a creamy hummus, baba ghanouj, kabobs, falafel, and gyros.

318 SE Grand Ave. (between Pine and Oak sts.). ✆ **503/235-5123.** www.nicholasrestaurant.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $4.75–$13. No credit cards. Mon–Sat 10am–9pm; Sun noon–9pm.

6 Coffee, Tea, Bakeries & Pastry Shops

CAFES

If you're in search of Portland's café culture or just need a good cup of coffee, I recommend the following places:

With an upscale Starbucks-style interior decor, a social conscience, and a Pearl District location, **World Cup,** 721 NW Ninth Ave. (✆ **503/546-7377;** www.worldcupcoffee.com), is a coffee haven for the politically correct. It's even located in an unusual environmentally friendly "green" building that has a rooftop terrace. Other World Cups are located inside Powell's City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. (✆ **503/228-4651,** ext. 234; p. 109), and in the Nob Hill neighborhood at 1740 NW Glisan St. (✆ **503/228-4152**).

Many a Portlander swears by the coffee at **Stumptown Coffee Roasters,** 128 SW Third Ave. (✆ **503/295-6144;** www.stumptowncoffee.com), a big, trendy cafe with an art-school aesthetic. Whether you go for the French press or a double shot of espresso, you're sure to be satisfied. Another Stumptown is located in the lobby of the Ace Hotel, 1026 SW Stark St. (✆ **503/224-9060;** p. 53). Over on the east side of the Willamette River are Stumptown's two original cafes: 4525 SE Division St. (✆ **503/230-7702**) and 3356 SE Belmont St. (✆ **503/232-8889**), which both tend to attract a young, hip clientele.

If you've got the kids with you but desperately need a place to sit down for a latte, head to **Sip & Kranz,** 901 NW Tenth Ave. (✆ **503/336-1335;** www.sipandkranz.com), a Pearl District coffee lounge that has a playroom for toddlers and young children. Right outside the front door is the immensely popular Jamison Square, where all summer long, kids splash in the wading pool fountain.

Not a coffee drinker? Try the funky **Tao of Tea,** 3430 SE Belmont St. (✆ **503/736-0119;** www.taooftea.com), which feels like it could be in some Kathmandu back alley and specializes in traditional Chinese tea service. A second tea room, called the **Tower of Cosmic Reflection**, is inside the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, 239 NW Everett St. (✆ **503/224-8455;** p. 88).

Whether you're looking for a handmade truffle, a fair-trade chocolate bar, or a cup of drinking chocolate, there's a chocolatier in town for you. If hot chocolate, not coffee, is your cup of choice, then be sure to stop by **Moonstruck Chocolate Café,** 608 SW Alder St. (✆ **503/241-0955;** www.moonstruckchocolate.com), where you can choose from a wide variety of hot chocolate drinks. Another Moonstruck is in the Nob Hill neighborhood at 526 NW 23rd Ave. (✆ **503/542-3400**). **Cacao,** 414 SW 13th Ave. (✆ **503/241-0656;** www.cacaodrinkchocolate.com), just off W. Burnside Street, offers a variety of chocolate confections from some of the Northwest's most noteworthy purveyors. **Alma Chocolate,** 140 NE 28th Ave. (✆ **503/517-0262;** www.almachocolate.com), uses fair-trade and organic ingredients in its chocolates. For hand-dipped truffles, head to **Sahagún,** 10 NW 16th Ave. (✆ **503/274-7065;** www.sahagunchocolates.com). Even big European chocolatiers have shops here in town. From Belgium come the pralines, buttercreams, and ganaches of **Leonidas,** 607 SW Washington St. (✆ **503/224-9247;** www.leonidasportland.com); and from Switzerland come the truffles of **teuscher,** 531 SW Broadway (✆ **503/827-0587;** www.teuscherportland.com).

BAKERIES, PASTRY SHOPS & GELATERIAS

Pearl Bakery ★★, 102 NW Ninth Ave. (✆ **503/827-0910;** www.pearlbakery.com), in the heart of the Pearl District, is famous in Portland for its breads and European-style pastries. The gleaming bakery cafe is also good for sandwiches, such as a roasted eggplant and tomato pesto on crusty bread.

Say the words "Papa Haydn" to a Portlander, and you'll see a blissful smile appear. What is it about this little bistro that gets locals gushing superlatives? The desserts. The lemon chiffon torte, raspberry

gâteau, black velvet, and tiramisu at **Papa Haydn West** ✪✪, 701 NW 23rd Ave. (✆ **503/228-7317;** www.papahaydn.com), are legendary. Pop in at their other location at 5829 SE Milwaukie Ave. (✆ **503/232-9440**) in the Westmoreland neighborhood.

Also in the Nob Hill neighborhood, you'll find **Ken's Artisan Bakery,** 338 NW 21st Ave. (✆ **503/248-2202;** www.kensartisan.com). Ken's doesn't do a wide variety of pastries, but what it does do, it does very well. Yum! Try the fruit tarts. My current favorite bakery in the neighborhood is the utterly Gallic **St. Honoré Boulangerie,** 2335 NW Thurman St. (✆ **503/445-4342;** www.sainthonorebakery.com); not only does this place turn out awesome pastries and breads, but you also can read *Le Monde,* while eating your croissant.

Located in Ladd's Addition, an old neighborhood full of big trees and craftsman-style bungalows, **Palio Dessert & Espresso House** ✪, 1996 SE Ladd Ave. (✆ **503/232-9412;** www.palio-in-ladds.com), is a very relaxed place with a timeless European quality. To get there, take Hawthorne Boulevard east to the corner of 12th and Hawthorne, then go diagonally down Ladd Avenue.

The **Rimsky-Korsakoffee House** ✪, 707 SE 12th Ave. (✆ **503/232-2640**), a classic old-style coffeehouse, has been Portland's favorite dessert hangout for more than 25 years. Live classical music and great desserts keep patrons loyal. It's open from 7pm to midnight on Sunday through Thursday and 7pm until 1am on Friday and Saturday.

I've saved the best for last: **Pix Patisserie,** 3402 SE Division St. (✆ **503/232-4407;** www.pixpatisserie.com), makes by far the most decadent pastries in Portland. Every sweet little jewel here is a work of art, and it can sometimes be a real challenge to desecrate these creations with a fork. Go ahead; take a bite. You won't soon forget the experience! When the need strikes you, choose from two other Pix Patisserie locations: 3731 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (✆ **503/236-4760**); and 3901 N. Williams Ave. (✆ **503/282-6539**).

If doughnuts are your guilty pleasure, then do not miss Portland's **Voodoo Doughnut,** 22 SW Third Ave. (✆ **503/241-4704;** voodoodoughnut.com). Open 24 hours a day and boasting that "the magic is in the hole," this downtown nightlife-district hole in the wall is not your usual doughnut shop. There are voodoo-doll doughnuts, bacon-topped maple bars, vegan doughnuts, and even x-rated doughnuts.

If it's hot out and nothing will do but something cold and creamy, check out one of Portland's gelaterias. These Italian-style frozen-dessert parlors have taken Portland by storm. In the Nob Hill neighborhood, you've got **Alotto Gelato,** 931 NW 23rd Ave. (✆ **503/228-1709;**

alottogelato.biz); in the Pearl District, is **Mio Gelato,** 25 NW 11th Ave. (✆ **503/226-8002**); and in northeast Portland, just off E. Burnside Street, there's **Staccato Gelato,** 232 NE 28th Ave. (✆ **503/231-7100;** www.staccatogelato.com).

7 Quick Bites & Cheap Eats

If you're just looking for something quick, cheap, and good to eat, you can choose from lots of great options around the city. Among my personal favorite choices are the many ethnic food carts that set up in parking lots around downtown. Two places to check include the corner of SW Stark Street and SW Fifth Avenue and the corner of SW Alder Street and SW Ninth Avenue.

Designer pizzas topped with anything from roasted eggplant to wild mushrooms to Thai peanut sauce can be had at **Pizzicato Gourmet Pizza** ★ (www.pizzicatopizza.com). Find them downtown at 705 SW Alder St. (✆ **503/226-1007**); in Northwest Portland at 505 NW 23rd Ave. (✆ **503/242-0023**); and in southeast Portland at 2811 E. Burnside (✆ **503/236-6045**). However, if you find yourself near a **Hot Lips Pizza** (www.hotlipspizza.com), give it a try. They're located at SE Hawthorne Blvd. and SE 22nd Ave. (✆ **503/234-9999**), NW 10th Ave. at NW Irving St. (✆ **503/595-2342**), and SW Sixth Ave. at SW Hall St. (✆ **503/224-0311**). For fast organic and mostly vegetarian food, search out a **Laughing Planet** (www.laughingplanetcafe.com). You'll find them at 922 NW 21st Ave. (✆ **503/445-1319**), 3320 SE Belmont St. (✆ **503/235-6472**), and 3765 N Mississippi St. (✆ **503/467-4146**).

6 Exploring Portland

Most American cities boast about their museums and historic buildings, shopping, and restaurants; Portland, as always, is different. Ask a Portlander about the city's must-see attractions, and you'll probably be directed to the Japanese Garden, the International Rose Test Garden, the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, and the Portland Saturday Market.

This isn't to say that the Portland Art Museum isn't worth visiting or that there are no historic buildings around. It's just that Portland's gardens, thanks to the weather here, are some of the finest in the country. What's more, all the rain seems to keep artists indoors creating beautiful art and crafts for much of the year, work that many artists sell at the Portland Saturday Market.

Gardening is a Portland obsession, and numerous world-class public gardens and parks can be found within the city. Visiting all the city's gardens alone can take up 2 or 3 days of touring, so leave plenty of time in your schedule if you have a green thumb.

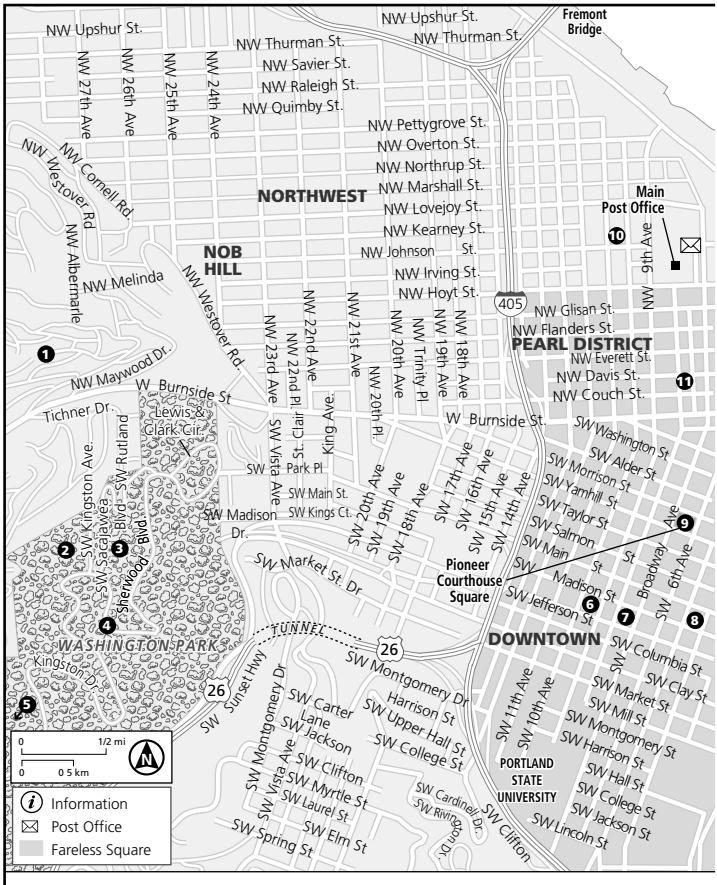
Once you've seen the big attractions, it's time to start learning why everyone loves living here so much. Portlanders for the most part are active types, who enjoy skiing and hiking just as much as they enjoy going to art museums, so no visit to Portland would be complete without venturing out into the Oregon countryside. Within 1½ hours you can be skiing on Mount Hood, walking beside the chilly waters of the Pacific, sampling pinot noir in wine country, hiking along a waterfall in the Columbia Gorge, or marveling at the blast zone of Mount St. Helens. But for those who prefer urban activities, the museums and parks listed below should easily satisfy.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

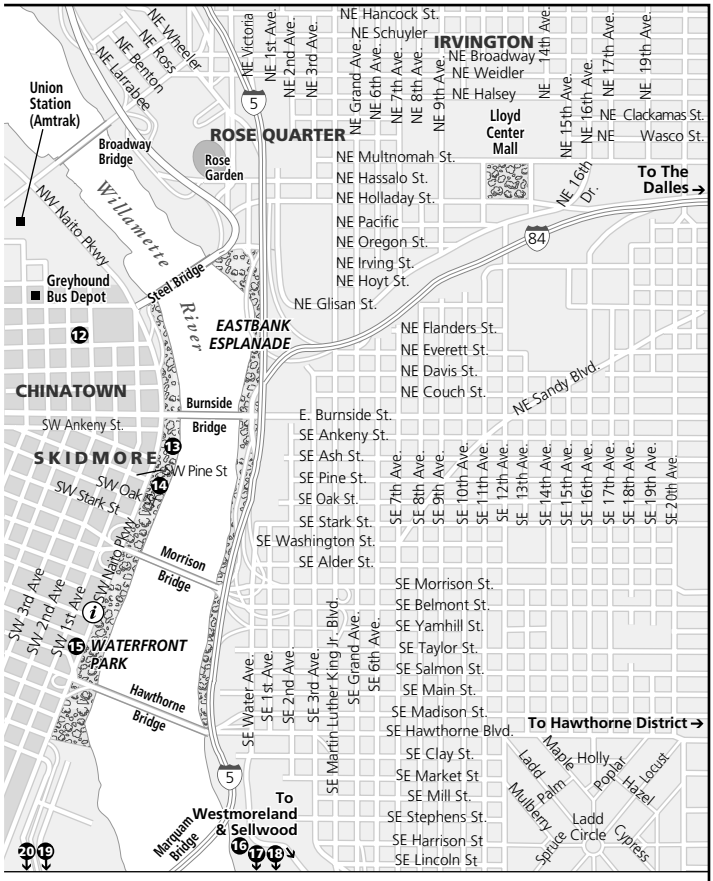
If You Have 1 Day

Start your day in Washington Park at the **Rose Garden** (roses are in bloom June–Oct) and the **Japanese Garden** (lovely any time of year). After touring these two gardens, head to downtown Portland. If you can make it to **Pioneer Courthouse Square** by noon,

Portland Attractions



Berry Botanical Gardens **19**
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden **17**
Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close **20**
International Rose Test Garden **3**
Jamison Square **10**
Japanese Garden **2**
Mill Ends Park **15**
Museum of Contemporary Craft **11**



Oaks Park Amusement Center **18**
Oregon Historical Society Museum **7**
Oregon Maritime Center and Museum **14**
Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) **16**
Oregon Zoo **5**
Pioneer Courthouse Square **9**
Pittock Mansion **1**
Portland Art Museum **6**
Portland Children's Museum **5**
Portland Classical Chinese Garden **12**
Portlandia & the Portland Building **8**
Portland Saturday Market **13**
Washington Park **4**
World Forestry Center Discovery Museum **5**

Moments Keep Portland Weird

"Keep Portland weird," an often-seen bumper sticker here in Stumptown (Portland's nickname), has become something of a mantra for many Portlanders. This town attracts a lot of independent thinkers, counterculturalists, and artistic types of all sorts. Not surprisingly, some of these people have chosen to share their personal passions through small, private museums. Here are some of my favorites.

- **The Hat Museum** (✆ **503/232-0433;** www.thehatmuseum.com) Hundreds of hats and lots more. Tours by costumed museum owner. Daily 10am–6pm; admission $10.
- **Mike's Movie Memorabilia Collection,** 4320 SE Belmont St. (✆ **503/234-4363;** www.moviemadnessvideo.com) Costumes and props from Hollywood movies inside a video-rental store. Sun–Thurs 10am–11pm; Fri–Sat 10am–midnight; free admission.
- **Stark's Vacuum Museum,** 107 NE Grand Ave. (✆ **503/232-4101;** www.starks.com) A vacuum-cleaner store with vacuums dating from the 1880s to the 1960s. This place really sucks. Mon–Fri 8am–7pm, Sat 9am–5pm, Sun 11am–4pm; free admission.
- **3D Center of Art & Photography,** 1928 NW Lovejoy St. (✆ **503/227-6667;** www.3dcenter.us) Contemporary and vintage 3-D photos and art. Thurs–Sat 11am–5pm, Sun 1–5pm (1st Thurs 6–9pm also); admission $4.
- **Velveteria,** 2448 E Burnside St. (✆ **503/233-5100;** www.velveteria.com) A museum of velvet paintings. Nuff said? Fri–Sun noon–5pm; admission $3.
- **Wells Fargo History Museum,** 1300 SW Fifth Ave. (✆ **503/886-1102;** www.wellsfargohistory.com) Stagecoaches in the soggy Northwest? Yee-ha. Mon–Fri 9am–6pm; free admission.

you can catch the day's weather prediction on the **Weather Machine** sculpture. From here, head over to the South Park Blocks and visit the **Portland Art Museum,** which usually has some big show going on. Next, take a free ride on the MAX light-rail line and get off at the **Portland Classical Chinese Garden.** If it's the weekend, be sure to squeeze in time to visit the Saturday

Market (open both Sat and Sun; closed Jan–Feb), which is just a few blocks from the Chinese garden.

If You Have 2 Days

Follow the 1-day strategy as outlined above. On your second day, visit the **Oregon Historical Society Museum,** take in the Saturday Market if you haven't already, and then walk through **Tom McCall Waterfront Park,** which is on the banks of the Willamette River. Take a **scenic cruise or jet-boat tour** on the river or do some quiet paddling on a guided sea-kayak tour.

If You Have 3 Days

Follow the outline above for your first 2 days in town. On your third day, head up the Columbia Gorge to see its many beautiful waterfalls. If you get an early start, you can loop all the way around Mount Hood and maybe get in a little hiking from historic Timberline Lodge.

If You Have 4 Days or More

Follow the 3-day strategy as outlined above, and then turn to chapter 10 for more information on the following side trips. On day 4, head over to the coast; it's only about 1½ hours away. You can stroll around artsy **Cannon Beach** and explore nearby **Ecola State Park.** Then make your way down the coast, stopping at other small state parks along the way. You can head back to Portland from **Tillamook.** If you have time, do part or all of the **Three Capes Scenic Loop** outside of Tillamook before returning to Portland.

On day 5, venture north to **Mount St. Helens** for the day to see the devastation that was caused when this volcano erupted back in 1980. Along the way, you could stop and visit historic Fort Vancouver in **Vancouver, Washington.** If you're a wine fancier, you could also head west from Portland for some **wine tasting.**

1 Downtown Portland's Cultural District

Any visit to Portland should start at the corner of Southwest Broadway and Yamhill Street on **Pioneer Courthouse Square.** The brick-paved square is an outdoor stage for everything from flower displays to concerts to protest rallies, but not too many years ago this beautiful area was nothing but a parking lot. The parking lot had been created in 1951 (in the days before historic preservation) when the Portland Hotel, an architectural gem of a Queen Anne–style château, was torn down.

Today the square, with its waterfall fountain and freestanding columns, is Portland's favorite gathering spot, especially at noon,

when the **Weather Machine** ✪, a mechanical sculpture, forecasts the weather for the next 24 hours. Amid a fanfare of music and flashing lights, the Weather Machine sends up clouds of mist and then a sun (clear weather), a dragon (stormy weather), or a blue heron (clouds and drizzle) appears.

Keep your eyes on the square's brick pavement, too. Every brick contains a name (or names) or statement, and some are rather curious. Also on the square, you'll find **Travel Portland** and a Starbucks. Unfortunately, you'll also find plenty of street kids hanging out here all hours of the day and night, so don't be surprised if they ask you for spare change.

Also not to be missed in this neighborhood are ***Portlandia*** ✪✪ and the **Portland Building,** 1120 SW Fifth Ave. Symbol of the city, *Portlandia* is the second-largest hammered bronze statue in the country (the largest is the Statue of Liberty). The massive kneeling figure holds a trident in one hand and reaches toward the street with the other. This classically designed figure perches incongruously above the entrance to architect Michael Graves' controversial Portland Building, considered to be the first postmodern structure in the United States. Today, anyone familiar with the bizarre constructions of architect Frank Gehry would find it difficult to understand how such an innocuous and attractive building could have ever raised such a fuss, but it did just that in the early 1980s.

Shopping for produce may not be on your usual vacation itinerary, but the **Portland Farmers Market** (✆ **503/241-0032;** www.portlandfarmersmarket.org) is such a quintessentially Portland experience that you cannot gain a sense of what this city is about unless you visit. Portland is a city obsessed with food, and nowhere is this more apparent than at this weekly market. Fresh berries, wild mushrooms and other foraged produce, salmon, oysters, pastries, artisan breads, hazelnuts, local wines. You'll find all of this and more here at the market. Live music and cooking demonstrations by local chefs add to the appeal. The market is held on Saturdays from 8:30am to 2pm from early April to late December, and is located in this neighborhood's South Park Blocks between SW Harrison and SW Montgomery streets.

Oregon Historical Society Museum ✪ In the middle of the 19th century, the Oregon Territory was a land of promise and plenty. Thousands of hardy individuals set out along the Oregon Trail, crossing a vast and rugged country to reach the fertile valleys of this region. Others came by ship around Cape Horn. If you'd like to

learn about the people who discovered Oregon before you, visit this well-designed museum. Fascinating exhibits chronicle Oregon's history from before the arrival of the first Europeans to well into the 20th century. Museum docents, with roots stretching back to the days of the Oregon Trail, are often on hand to answer questions. You can't miss this museum—look for the eight-story-high trompe l'oeil mural stretching across the front.

1200 SW Park Ave. ✆ **503/222-1741.** www.ohs.org. Admission $10 adults, $8 students and seniors, $5 children 6–18, free for children 5 and under. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm; Sun noon–5pm. Bus: 6 or 8. MAX: Library Station. Portland Streetcar: Art Museum (northbound); 11th Ave. and Jefferson St. (southbound).

Portland Art Museum ★★ This is the Northwest's oldest art museum, and it has an excellent collection of modern and contemporary art. However, the best reason to visit is to see the extensive collection of Native American art and artifacts. There's also a good collection of Northwest contemporary art that includes a fascinating two-story wall of "artifacts" by glass artist William Morris. Other collections include European, Asian, and American art, and a small sculpture court. The Portland Art Museum is frequently the Northwest stop for touring blockbuster exhibits.

1219 SW Park Ave. ✆ **503/226-2811.** www.portlandartmuseum.org. Admission $10 adults, $9 seniors and college students, $6 children 5–18, free for children 4 and under. Tues–Wed and Sat 10am–5pm; Thurs–Fri 10am–8pm; Sun noon–5pm. Closed Christmas. Bus: 6. MAX: Library Station. Portland Streetcar: Art Museum (northbound); 11th Ave. and Jefferson St. (southbound).

2 Skidmore Historic District, Chinatown & the Willamette River Waterfront

If Pioneer Courthouse Square is the city's living room, **Tom McCall Waterfront Park** ★, along the Willamette River, is the city's front-yard play area. The park is filled with acres of lawns, shade trees, sculptures, and fountains, and the paved path through the park is popular with in-line skaters and joggers. This park also serves as the site of numerous festivals each summer. Also in the park is the Japanese-American Historical Plaza, dedicated to Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps during World War II.

Just north of this plaza, a pedestrian walkway crosses the Steel Bridge to the east side of the Willamette River and the **Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade,** which stretches for about 1½ miles along the east bank of the river. Although this paved multiuse path gets a lot of traffic noise from the adjacent freeway, it offers great views of the

Portland skyline. Along the route are small parks and gardens, interesting sculptures, and benches for sitting and soaking up the view. The highlight of this path is a section that floats right on the river and is attached to pilings in much the same way that a floating dock is constructed. You can access the Eastbank Esplanade by way of the pedestrian pathway on the Steel Bridge. This bridge is at the north end of Waterfront Park.

Museum of Contemporary Craft ★★ Founded in 1937, this is one of the country's finest museums of contemporary craft, and in 2007, the museum moved to this new location on the tree-shaded North Park Blocks. Throughout the year, works from the permanent collection share space with changing exhibits that might focus on an individual artist or a single theme. Cutting-edge ceramics and jewelry are always highlights of exhibits here, but you might catch a show focusing on crafts incorporating bamboo or an exhibition of artist-made books. From here it is just a few blocks to the art galleries in the Pearl District.

724 NW Davis St. ✆ **503/223-2654.** www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org. Free admission. Tues–Wed and Fri–Sun 11am–6pm; Thurs 11am–8pm. Closed July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day.

Oregon Maritime Center & Museum This floating museum is housed in the historic steam-powered stern-wheeler *Portland,* which is docked at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Inside are models of ships that once plied the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Also on display are early navigation instruments, artifacts from the battleship *Oregon,* old ship hardware, and other maritime memorabilia.

SW Pine St. and SW Naito Pkwy. ✆ **503/224-7724.** www.oregonmaritimemuseum.org. Admission $5 adults, $4 seniors, $3 youths 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Wed–Sun 11am–4pm. Bus: 12, 19, or 20. MAX: Skidmore Fountain Station.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) ★ *Kids* Located on the east bank of the Willamette River across from the south end of Waterfront Park, this modern science museum has six huge halls, and both kids and adults find the exhibits fun and fascinating. This is a hands-on museum, and everyone is urged to get involved with displays, from a science playground for young children to physics and chemistry labs for older children. Simulated earthquakes and tornadoes are perennial favorites. There's plenty of pure entertainment at an **OMNIMAX theater** and the **Kendall Planetarium,** which features laser-light shows and astronomy presentations. The USS *Blueback* submarine (used in the film *The Hunt for Red October*) is docked here, and tours are given daily.

Pearls in the Pearl District

The Pearl District has become Portland's hottest neighborhood. In addition to all the restaurants, wine bars, and boutiques are some fun works of public art, a beautiful little park that looks like a small park in Paris, and an innovative park that is something of a quiet natural area within an urban setting.

Stroll through the tree-shaded parks of the North Park blocks, which form the eastern edge of the Pearl District, and, at the Burnside Street end of these parks, you'll see a huge Chinese bronze elephant that was a gift from one of Portland's sister cities. A couple of blocks north of this elephant, watch for a bronze dog-bowl water fountain set in a checkerboard floor of stone. This odd sculpture was created by William Wegman, famous for his humorous photos of his dogs.

Right in the heart of the Pearl District, at the corner of NW Johnson Street and NW 10th Avenue, you'll find Jamison Square, a park with an unusual wall-like cascading waterfall that fills a shallow pool. Around the graveled areas of the park, you'll find bistro chairs where you can sit and enjoy a latte from a nearby espresso bar. Be sure to notice the totem-pole–inspired sculptures along the western edge of the park. Two blocks north of Jamison Square, at the corner of NW 10th Avenue and NW Marshall Street, is Tanner Springs Park, an unusual little natural area that revives springs that once flowed here while at the same time commemorates the railroad yards that predate the Pearl District's many new developments.

A path runs beside OMSI and heads north to the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and south 3 miles to Oaks Bottom amusement park. Along the pathway beside the museum are several interesting plaques about the history of Portland and its relationship to the Willamette River. OMSI is also the departure point for several different boat cruises up and down the Willamette River.

1945 SE Water Ave. ✆ **800/955-6674** or 503/797-6674. www.omsi.edu. Museum $9 adults, $7 seniors and children 3–13; OMNIMAX shows $8.50 adults, $6.50 seniors and children 3–13; $5.50 submarine tours, planetarium shows, and matinee

laser-light shows; $7.50 evening laser shows; discounted combination tickets available. Thurs 2pm until closing all tickets are 2 for 1. Mid-June to Aug daily 9:30am–7pm; Sept to mid-June Tues–Sun 9:30am–5:30pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bus: 4, 14, or 33.

Portland Classical Chinese Garden ★★ This classically styled Chinese garden takes up an entire city block and is the largest of its type outside of China. The walls surrounding these gardens in Chinatown separate the urban 21st century from the timeless Chinese landscape within. The landscape is designed to evoke the wild mountains of China and to create a tranquil oasis within an urban setting. The gardens are centered around a small pond, which, at one end, has a rock wall meant to conjure up the sort of images evoked in Chinese scroll paintings. Numerous pavilions, a small bridge, and a winding pathway provide ever-changing views of the gardens. With its many paved paths and small viewing pavilions, this garden has a completely different feel from the Japanese Garden. Try to visit as soon as the gardens open in the morning; once the crowds descend and the guided tours start circulating—well, so much for tranquillity. On the other hand, if you want to learn more about the garden, you can join a guided tour at noon or 1pm. Be sure to stop and have a cup of tea and maybe a snack in the garden's tearoom.

NW Everett St. and NW Third Ave. ✆ **503/228-8131.** www.portlandchinesegarden.org. Admission $7 adults, $6 seniors, $5.50 students and children 6–18, free for children 5 and under. Apr–Oct daily 9am–6pm; Nov–Mar daily 10am–5pm. Bus: 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 33, 40, or 77. MAX: Old Town/Chinatown Station.

Portland Saturday Market ★ The Portland Saturday Market (actually held on both Sat and Sun) is arguably the city's best-loved event. For years the Northwest has attracted artists and craftspeople, and every Saturday and Sunday nearly 300 of them sell their creations here. In addition to the dozens of crafts stalls, you'll find ethnic and unusual foods and lots of free entertainment. This is one of the best places in Portland to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts. The atmosphere is always cheerful and the crowds colorful. Located at the heart of the Skidmore District, the Market makes an excellent starting or finishing point for a walk around Portland's downtown historic neighborhood. On Sunday, on-street parking is free.

Underneath the west end of the Burnside Bridge between SW First Ave. and SW Naito Pkwy. ✆ **503/222-6072.** www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com. Free admission. 1st weekend in Mar to Christmas Eve Sat 10am–5pm and Sun 11am–4:30pm. Bus: 12, 19, or 20. MAX: Skidmore Fountain Station.

3 Washington Park & Portland's West Hills

Portland is justly proud of its green spaces, and foremost among them are **Washington Park** and **Forest Park.**

Within Washington Park, you'll find the **Japanese Garden** and **International Rose Test Garden,** adjacent to one another on the more developed east side of the park (see the listings below). On the west side of the park (farther from the city center), you'll find not only the Hoyt Arboretum, but also the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, and the Portland Children's Museum.

The 185-acre **Hoyt Arboretum** (✆ **503/865-8733;** www.hoytarboretum.org) ✭ is planted with over 1,000 species of trees and shrubs from temperate regions around the world and has several miles of hiking trails. Between April and October, free 1-hour guided tours of the arboretum are conducted on the first Saturday of the month at 10am. At the south end of the arboretum, adjacent to the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum and the Oregon Zoo, is the **Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial.** At the arboretum's Visitor Center, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. (Mon–Fri 9am–4pm and Sat 9am–3pm), you can pick up maps and guides to the arboretum. The arboretum can be reached either from the Oregon Zoo/World Forestry Center Discovery Museum/Portland Children's Museum area or by following the arboretum signs from West Burnside Street.

To the north of Hoyt Arboretum is **Forest Park** ✭✭ (✆ **503/823-PLAY**), which, with more than 5,000 acres of forest, is one of the largest forested city parks in the United States. Within the park are more than 74 miles of trails and old fire roads for hiking, jogging, and mountain biking. More than 100 species of birds call this forest home, making it a great spot for urban bird-watching. Along the forest trails, you can see huge old trees and find quiet picnic spots tucked away in the woods. One of the most convenient park access points is at the top of NW Thurman Street (just keep heading uphill until the road dead-ends). You can also park at the Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center (see above) or the Audubon Society (see below), pick up a map of Forest Park, and head out from either of these locations.

By car, the easiest route to the Washington Park attractions from downtown Portland is to take SW Jefferson Street west, turn right onto SW 18th Avenue, left on SW Salmon Street, right on SW King Street, and then left onto SW Park Place. Although this sounds confusing, you'll find most of the route well marked with "Scenic Drive" signs. Alternatively, you can drive west on West Burnside Street and watch for signs to the arboretum, or take the zoo exit off U.S. 26. All

Great Photo Ops

If you've seen a photo of Portland with conical snow-covered Mount Hood looming in the background and you want to snap a similar photo while you're in town, there are several places to try. Most popular are probably the terraces of the International Rose Test Garden and from behind the pavilion at the Japanese Garden. See the reviews for both attractions below. Another great view can be glimpsed from the grounds of the Pittock Mansion (p. 92).

One other not-to-be-missed vista is located atop Council Crest, a hilltop park in Portland's West Hills. To reach this park, take the Sylvan exit off U.S. 26 west of downtown Portland, turn south and then east (left) on Humphrey Boulevard, and then follow the signs. Alternatively, you can follow SW Broadway south out of downtown Portland and follow the signs. This road winds through attractive hillside neighborhoods for a ways before reaching Council Crest.

of these attractions can also be reached via bus 63. You can also take the MAX line to the Washington Park Station, which is adjacent to the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, Portland Children's Museum, and Hoyt Arboretum. From here, it is possible (in the summer months) to take a shuttle bus to the Japanese Garden and International Rose Test Garden. A miniature train also runs from the zoo to a station near the two public gardens. However, to ride this train, you must first pay zoo admission.

International Rose Test Garden ★★ Covering more than 5 acres of hillside in the West Hills above downtown Portland, these are among the largest and oldest rose test gardens in the United States and are the only city-maintained test gardens to bestow awards on each year's best roses. The gardens were established in 1917 by the American Rose Society and are used as a testing ground for new varieties of roses. Though you will probably see some familiar roses in the Gold Medal Garden, most of the 400 varieties on display are new hybrids being tested before marketing. Among the various gardens here, which have blooms from late spring through early winter, you'll find a separate garden of miniature roses and a Shakespeare Garden with flowers mentioned in the bard's works.

400 SW Kingston Ave., Washington Park. ✆ **503/823-3636.** Free admission (donations accepted). Daily dawn–dusk. Bus: 63.

The Japanese Garden ★★★ Considered the finest example of a Japanese garden in North America, this exquisitely manicured green space should not be missed. Not only are there five different styles of Japanese gardens scattered over 5½ acres, but there's also a view of volcanic Mount Hood, which has a strong resemblance to Mount Fuji. Although Japanese gardens are traditionally not designed with colorful floral displays, this garden definitely has its seasonal highlights. Cherry trees bloom in early spring, azaleas in mid-spring, a huge wisteria bursts into bloom in late spring, and large Japanese irises color the banks of a pond in early summer. May through October, on the third Saturday of each of the month, there's a demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony in the garden's teahouse.

611 SW Kingston Ave. (in Washington Park). ✆ **503/223-1321.** www.japanesegarden.com. Admission $8 adults, $6.25 seniors and college students, $5.25 youths 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Apr–Sept Mon noon–7pm and Tues–Sun 10am–7pm; Oct–Mar Mon noon–4pm and Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station (then, in summer months, take the shuttle bus or the zoo train).

Oregon Zoo ★ *Kids* The Oregon Zoo is perhaps best known for its elephants, the most successful breeding herd of elephants in captivity. However, in recent years, the zoo has been adding new exhibits and branching out beyond the world of pachyderms. The Africa exhibit, which includes a very lifelike rainforest and a savanna populated by zebras, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, and other animals, is one of the most realistic habitats you'll ever see at a zoo. Equally impressive is the Alaskan tundra exhibit, with grizzly bears, wolves, and musk oxen. The Cascade Crest exhibit includes a mountain goat habitat, and in the Steller Cove exhibit, you can watch the antics of Steller's sea lions and sea otters. Don't miss the bat house or the Amazon Flooded Forest exhibit.

All Aboard!

The **Washington Park and Zoo Railway** travels between the zoo and the International Rose Test Garden and Japanese Garden. To ride the train, you have to first pay zoo admission. Tickets for the miniature railway are $3.50 for adults, $2.75 for seniors and children 3 to 11, and free for children 2 and under. Another shorter route just loops around the zoo.

The zoo's SimEx-Iwerks Simulation Theatre, a 3-D thrill ride, is a big hit with kids. In the summer, **outdoor concerts** are held in the zoo's amphitheater; admission prices vary.

4001 SW Canyon Rd., Washington Park. ✆ **503/226-1561.** www.oregonzoo.org. Admission $9.75 adults, $8.25 seniors, $6.75 children 3–11, free for children 2 and under; $2 admission for all 2nd Tues of each month. Apr 15–Sept 15 daily 9am–6pm; Sept 16–Apr 14 daily 9am–4pm. Closed Christmas. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

Pittock Mansion ★ At nearly the highest point in the West Hills, 1,000 feet above sea level, stands the most impressive mansion in Portland. Once slated to be torn down to make way for new housing, this grand château, built by the founder of Portland's *Oregonian* newspaper, is fully restored and open to the public. Built in 1914 in a French Renaissance style, the mansion featured many innovations, including a built-in vacuum system and multiple showerheads in the baths. Today it's furnished with 18th- and 19th-century antiques, much as it might have been at the time the Pittocks lived here. With an expansive view over the city to the Cascade Range, the lawns surrounding the mansion are great for picnics. You can also access Forest Park's Wildwood Trail from here.

3229 NW Pittock Dr. ✆ **503/823-3623.** www.pittockmansion.org. Admission $7 adults, $6 seniors, $4 children 6–18. June daily 11am–4pm; July–Aug daily 10am–4pm; Sept–Dec and Feb–May daily noon–4pm. Closed Christmas and the month of Jan.

World Forestry Center Discovery Museum ★ Although Oregon depends less and less on the timber industry with each passing year, this museum is still busy educating visitors about the importance of forest resources around the world. Step inside the huge wooden main hall, and you come face to bark with several large and very lifelike trees. Press a button at its base and you can pilot a video camera around the tree's branches. Pay an extra $4, and you can climb into a chairlift that lets you explore these same trees. In another exhibit, you can practice being a smoke jumper (firefighter), while in another area, you can go on a video raft ride. Interesting temporary exhibits are staged here throughout the year, from photographic exhibits to displays of woodworker's art.

4033 SW Canyon Rd. ✆ **503/228-1367.** www.worldforestry.org. Admission $7 adults, $6 seniors, $5 children 3–18, free for children 2 and under. Daily 10am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

4 Portland's Other Public Gardens

If roses are your passion, check out the **Peninsula Park Rose Garden** at the corner of North Portland Boulevard and North Albina Avenue (take the Portland Blvd. exit off I-5 and go 2 blocks east), which has even more roses than the International Rose Test Garden.

The Berry Botanic Garden ✪ Originally founded as a private garden, the Berry Botanic Garden is now one of Portland's favorite public gardens. Among the highlights is a large, forestlike collection of mature rhododendron shrubs. There are also rock gardens with unusual plants, a native plant trail, and a fern garden. The garden is open by reservation only.

11505 SW Summerville Ave. ✆ **503/636-4112.** www.berrybot.org. Adults $5. Open daylight hours by appointment. Bus: 35.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden ✪ Nowhere do rhododendrons do better than in the cool, rainy Northwest, and nowhere in Portland is there a more impressive planting of rhodies than at Crystal Springs. Eight months out of the year, this is a tranquil garden, with a waterfall, a lake, and ducks to feed. But when the rhododendrons and azaleas bloom from March to June, it becomes

The World's Smallest Park

Don't blink as you cross the median strip on Naito Parkway at the corner of Southwest Taylor Street, or you might just miss **Mill Ends Park,** the smallest public park in the world.

Covering a whopping 452 square inches of land, this park was the whimsical creation of local journalist Dick Fagen. After a telephone pole was removed from the middle of Naito Parkway (then known as Front Ave.), Fagen dubbed the phone pole hole Mill Ends Park (Mill Ends, a lumber mill term, was the name of Fagen's newspaper column). The columnist, whose office looked down on the hole in the middle of Front Avenue, peopled the imaginary park with leprechauns and would often write of the park's goings-on in his column. On St. Patrick's Day 1976, it was officially designated a Portland city park. Rumor has it that despite its diminutive size, the park has been the site of several weddings (although the parks department has never issued a wedding permit for it).

a spectacular mass of blazing color. The Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale is held here on Mother's Day weekend.

SE 28th Ave. (1 block north of SE Woodstock Blvd.). ✆ **503/771-8386.** Admission $3 Mar 1 to Labor Day Thurs–Mon 10am–6pm; free at other times. Open year-round daily dawn to dusk. Bus: 19.

Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close ★ Set on a steep hillside above the Willamette River between Portland and Lake Oswego, this was once a private garden but was donated to the local Episcopal bishop of Oregon on the condition that it be opened to the public. The mature gardens are at their best through the spring and early summer. You also get an excellent view of Mount Hood from the grounds.

11800 SW Military Lane. ✆ **800/452-2562** or 503/636-5613. www.diocese-oregon.org/theclose. Free admission. Daily 8am–5pm. Bus: 35.

5 Especially for Kids

In addition to the attractions listed below, the kids will especially enjoy the **Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** (p. 86), which has lots of hands-on exhibits, and the **Oregon Zoo** (p. 91). From inside the zoo, it's possible to take a small train through Washington Park to the International Rose Test Garden, below which is the **Rose Garden Children's Park,** a colorful play area for younger children. The **Salmon Street Springs fountain,** in downtown's Tom McCall Waterfront Park (at SW Naito Pkwy. and SW Salmon St.), is another fun place to take the kids. During hot summer months, lots of happy kids are always playing in the jets of water that erupt from the pavement here. There are also big lawns in **Waterfront Park,** so the kids can run off excess energy. **Jamison Square,** in the Pearl District, also has a splashy play pond.

Oaks Park Amusement Center *Kids* What would summer be without the screams of happy thrill seekers risking life and limb on a roller coaster? Covering more than 44 acres, this amusement park first opened in 1905 to coincide with the centennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Beneath the shady oaks for which the park is named, you'll find waterfront picnic sites, miniature golf, music, and plenty of thrilling rides. Check out the largest wood-floored roller-skating rink in the West, where an organist still plays the Wurlitzer for the skaters.

7805 SE Oaks Park Way (east end of the Sellwood Bridge). ✆ **503/233-5777.** www.oakspark.com. Free admission; individual-ride tickets $2.25, limited-ride bracelet $11.25, deluxe-ride bracelet $14. Rides open Apr–Sept; skating rink open year-round. Hours vary seasonally; call for details. Bus: 70.

Portland Children's Museum Located across the parking lot from the Oregon Zoo, this large, modern children's museum includes exhibits for children ages 6 months to 13 years. Kids can play in a magical forest, go shopping in a kid-size grocery store, or help build a house. However, it is the Water Works exhibit that is likely to make the biggest splash with your kids. There are also six studios with changing exhibits and opportunities for exploring the visual, literary, and performing arts. Combined with the nearby zoo, this museum makes for an easy all-day kid-oriented outing.

4015 SW Canyon Rd. ✆ **503/223-6500.** www.portlandcm.org. Admission $7 adults and children, $6 seniors, free for children under 1 yr. Tues–Sun 9am–5pm. Closed some national holidays. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

6 Organized Tours

CRUISES

With two large rivers winding through the city, Portland is a town that needs to be seen from the water. Try the ***Portland Spirit*** (✆ **800/224-3901** or 503/224-3900; www.portlandspirit.com), a 150-foot yacht that specializes in meal cruises. Brunch, lunch, and dinner cruises feature Northwest cuisine with views of the city skyline. You can also take a basic sightseeing cruise, and on Friday nights July through September, you can go on a cocktail cruise with a live band. Call for reservations and schedule. Prices range from $18 to $64 for adults and $15 to $59 for children. This company also operates jet-boat tours that go up the Columbia River to the Bonneville Dam and down the Columbia to Astoria.

For high-speed tours up the Willamette River, book a tour with **Willamette Jetboat Excursions** (✆ **888/538-2628** or 503/231-1532; www.willamettejet.com). These high-powered open-air boats blast their way from downtown Portland to the impressive Willamette Falls at Oregon City. The 2-hour tours, which start at OMSI, are $31 for adults and $19 for children 4 to 11, free for children 3 and under. Tours are offered from late April to late September. You can also book less expensive 1-hour tours, but these do not go upriver to the falls.

BUS TOURS

If you want to get a general overview of Portland, **Gray Line** (✆ **888/684-3322** or 503/243-6789; www.grayline.com) offers several half-day and full-day tours. Itineraries take in the International Rose Test Garden, the Japanese Garden, Pittock Mansion, the Pearl District, and other city sights. There are also tours to see the waterfalls in the

Columbia Gorge, wine country, to Mount Hood, and to the Oregon coast. Tour prices range from $37.50 to $80 for adults, and from $19 to $38 for children.

RAIL EXCURSIONS

While Portland is busy reviving trolleys and streetcars as a viable mass transit option, the **Willamette Shore Trolley** ★ (✆ **503/697-7436;** www.trainweb.org/oerhs/wst.htm) offers scenic excursions along the Willamette River in historic trolley cars (including a double-decker) from the early part of the 20th century. The old wooden trolleys rumble over trestles and through a tunnel as they cover the 7 miles between Portland and the upscale suburb of Lake Oswego (a 40-min. trip). Along the way, you pass through shady corridors with lots of views of the river and glimpses into the yards of posh riverfront homes. In Lake Oswego, the trolley station is on State Street, between A Avenue and Foothills Road. In Portland, the station is about 1 mile south of downtown in the South Waterfront District off Macadam Avenue at the corner of SW Moody Avenue and SW Bancroft Street. The round-trip fare is $10 for adults, $9 for seniors, and $6 for children 3 to 12. The trolleys usually run between May and October and then again during the Christmas season; call for a schedule.

WALKING TOURS

Peter's Walking Tours of Portland (✆ **503/665-2558;** www.walkportland.com), led by Peter Chausse, are a great way to learn more about Portland. The walking tours of downtown last 3 hours and take in the city's fountains, parks, historic places, art, and architecture. Tours are by reservation and cost $10 for adults and $5 teens (free for children 7 and under with a paying adult).

Two to three times a year, Sharon Wood Wortman, author of *The Portland Bridge Book,* offers a **Bridge Tour** that explores several Portland bridges. These tours are offered through the Outdoor Recreation Program of **Portland Parks and Recreation** (✆ **503/823-2525;** www.portlandparks.org). Many other walking tours are also available through Portland Parks and Recreation.

The seamy underbelly of history is laid bare on **Portland Underground Tours** ★ (✆ **503/622-4798;** www.members.tripod.com/cgs-mthood), which are operated by the Cascade Geographic Society and head below street level in the historic Old Town neighborhood. On these unusual tours, which are only for those who are steady on their feet and able to duck under pipes and joists and such, you'll hear tales of the days when Portland was known as one of the

most dangerous ports on the Pacific Rim. Sailors were regularly shanghaied (kidnapped) from bars and brothels in this area and a vast network of tunnels and underground rooms was developed to support this business. Tours cost $12 for adults and $7 for children 11 and under and are offered by reservation only.

WINERY TOURS

If you're interested in learning more about Oregon wines, contact **Grape Escape** (✆ **503/283-3380;** www.grapeescapetours.com), which offers in-depth winery tours of the Willamette Valley. All-day tours include stops at several wineries, appetizers, lunch, and dessert, and pickup and drop-off at your hotel ($95–$155 per person). For people with less time, Grape Escape offers half-day afternoon trips that take in two or three wineries ($75–$95 per person). **Oregon Wine Tours** (✆ **503/681-WINE;** www.orwinetours.com) offers similar all-day tours that stop at four or five wineries. These tours cost $160 per person for groups of two to three people.

For information on touring wine country on your own, see "Winery Tours," in chapter 10.

7 Outdoor Pursuits

If you're planning ahead for a visit to Portland, contact **Metro,** 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232-2736 (✆ **503/797-1850;** www.metro-region.org/parks), for its *Metro GreenScene* publication that lists tours, hikes, classes, and other outdoor activities and events being held in the Portland metro area.

BIKING

Portland is a very bicycle-friendly city, and you'll notice plenty of cyclists on the streets. There are also miles of paved bike paths around the city, and some good mountain biking areas as well. For mountain-bike rentals, head to **Fat Tire Farm,** 2714 NW Thurman St. (✆ **503/222-3276;** www.fattirefarm.com), where bikes go for $40 to $75 for a 24-hour rental. Straight up Thurman Street from this bike shop, you'll find the trail head for **Leif Erickson Drive,** an old gravel road that is Forest Park's favorite route for cyclists and runners (the road is closed to motor vehicles); the trail is 12 miles long.

If you'd like to explore Portland's riverfront bike paths, stop in at **Waterfront Bicycle Rentals,** 0315 SW Montgomery St., Suite 360 (✆ **503/227-1719;** www.waterfrontbikes.net), where you can rent a bike for $8.50 to $12.50 per hour or $28 to $40 per half-day. From

here head through Tom McCall Waterfront Park, cross the Steel Bridge, and ride down the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade path. This trail leads 4 miles south to the upscale Sellwood neighborhood.

GOLF

If you're a golfer, don't forget to bring your clubs along on a trip to Portland. Plenty of public courses are around the area, and greens fees at municipal courses range from $23 to $40 for 18 holes. Municipal golf courses operated by the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation include **Redtail Golf Course,** 8200 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (✆ **503/646-5166**); **Eastmoreland Golf Course,** 2425 SE Bybee Blvd. (✆ **503/775-2900**), which is the second-oldest golf course in the state (this one gets my vote for best municipal course); **Heron Lakes Golf Course,** 3500 N. Victory Blvd. (✆ **503/289-1818**), which has two courses designed by Robert Trent Jones; and **Rose City Golf Course,** 2200 NE 71st Ave. (✆ **503/253-4744**), on the site of a former country club. For more information, log on to **www.portlandonline.com/parks**.

If you want to tee off where the pros play, head west from Portland 20 miles to **Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club** ★★, 12930 NW Old Pumpkin Ridge Rd., North Plains (✆ **503/647-4747;** www.pumpkinridge.com), a 36-hole course that has hosted the U.S. Women's Open. Greens fees range from $30 to $150 on the one course that is open to the public.

West of the city, on the south side of Hillsboro, is **The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club** ★★, 4805 SW 229th Ave., Aloha (✆ **503/649-8191;** www.reservegolf.com). Greens fees range from $45 to $85 depending on time of year and day of the week.

HIKING

Hiking opportunities abound in the Portland area. For shorter hikes, you don't even have to leave the city, just head to **Forest Park.** Bordered by West Burnside Street on the south, Newberry Road on the north, St. Helens Road on the east, and Skyline Road on the west, this is one of the largest forested city parks in the country. Within this urban wilderness, you'll find more than 70 miles of trails. One of my favorite access points is at the top of NW Thurman Street in Northwest Portland. (After a hike, you can stop for a post-exercise payoff at a neighborhood brewpub, an espresso bar, or bakery along NW 23rd Ave. or NW 21st Ave.) The 30-mile Wildwood Trail is the longest trail in the park and along its length offers lots of options for loop hikes. For a roughly 2.5-mile hike, head up Leif Erickson Drive to a left onto the Wild Cherry Trail to a right onto the Wildwood

Trail to a right onto the Dogwood Trail, and then a right on Leif Erickson Drive to get you back to the trail head. There are also good sections of trail to hike in the vicinity of the Hoyt Arboretum. To reach the arboretum's visitor center, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. (Mon–Fri 9am–4pm and Sat 9am–3pm), drive west on West Burnside Street from downtown Portland and follow signs to the arboretum. You can get a trail map here at the visitor center.

About 5 miles south of downtown, you'll find **Tryon Creek State Park** off Terwilliger Boulevard. This park is similar to Forest Park and is best known for its displays of trillium flowers in the spring. Several miles of walking trails are within the park, as well as a bike path to downtown Portland.

You can buy or rent camping equipment from **REI Co-Op,** 1405 NW Johnson St. (✆ **503/221-1938;** www.rei.com). This huge outdoor recreation supply store also sells books on hiking in the area.

SEA KAYAKING

If you want to check out the Portland skyline from water level, arrange for a sea kayak tour through the **Portland River Company** ★★, 0315 SW Montgomery St., Suite 330 (✆ **888/238-2059** or 503/229-0551; www.portlandrivercompany.com), which operates out of the RiverPlace Marina at the south end of Tom McCall Waterfront Park. A 2½-hour tour that circles nearby Ross Island costs $43 to $47 per person. This company also rents sea kayaks (to experienced paddlers) for $10 to $20 per hour.

SKIING

Several ski resorts are situated on the slopes of Mount Hood within about an hour's drive of Portland. Timberline Ski Area even boasts summer skiing. There are also many miles of marked cross-country ski trails. The best cross-country skiing on Mount Hood is at the Nordic center at Mount Hood Meadows, and at Teacup Lake, which is along Highway 35 near the turnoff for Mount Hood Meadows. You'll find numerous ski and snowboard rental shops in the town of Sandy, which is on the way from Portland to Mount Hood, and ski areas also rent equipment.

Timberline Ski Area (✆ **503/622-0717** or 503/222-2211 for snow report; www.timberlinelodge.com) is the highest ski area on Mount Hood and has one slope that is open throughout the summer. This is the site of the historic **Timberline Lodge.** Adult lift-ticket prices range from $23 for night skiing to between $49 and $54 for an all-day pass. Call for hours of operation.

Mount Hood Meadows ★★ (✆ **800/SKI-HOOD;** 503/227-7669 for snow report; www.skihood.com), 12 miles northeast of Government Camp on Ore. 35, is the largest ski resort on Mount Hood, with more than 2,000 skiable acres, 2,777 vertical feet, five high-speed quad lifts, and a wide variety of terrain. This is the closest Mount Hood comes to having a destination ski resort, and consequently, it is here that you'll find the most out-of-state skiers. Lift-ticket prices range from $25 for night skiing to between $54 and $64 for an all-day pass. Call for hours of operation.

Mt. Hood Skibowl (✆ **503/272-3206;** 800/754-2695 or 503/222-2695 for snow report; www.skibowl.com) is located in Government Camp on U.S. 26 and is the closest ski area to Portland. Skibowl offers 1,500 vertical feet of skiing and has more expert slopes than any other ski area on the mountain. This is also one of the largest lighted ski areas in the country. Adult lift-ticket prices range from $33 to $39 for an all-day pass ($25 for night skiing). Call for hours of operation.

All of the ski areas mentioned above allow snowboarding. Mount Hood Meadows and Mt. Hood SkiBowl both have cross-country skiing (though only Mount Hood Meadows has a Nordic Center and groomed fee-access trails).

WHITE-WATER RAFTING

The Cascade Range produces some of the best white-water rafting in the country, and the White Salmon, Sandy, and Clackamas rivers all offer plenty of rafting opportunities within an hour or two of Portland. The Sandy and the Clackamas are the two closest rivers.

Trips on the Clackamas, North Santiam, Wind, and Hood rivers are offered by **Blue Sky Whitewater Rafting** (✆ **800/898-6398** or 503/630-3163; www.blueskyrafting.com), which charges $45 to $65 for a half-day trip and $72.50 to $95 for a full-day trip. **River Drifters** (✆ **800/972-0430** or 800/226-1001; www.riverdrifters.net) offers trips on the Sandy, White Salmon, Deschutes, Clackamas, Wind, North Santiam, and Klickitat rivers for between $70 and $95 for a full day (half-day trips are also available). **Zoller's Outdoor Odysseys, Inc.** (✆ **800/366-2004** or 509/493-2641; www.zooraft.com) offers half-day trips on the White Salmon for $65 and all-day trips on the Klickitat for $85.

8 Spectator Sports

Tickets to events at the Rose Garden arena and Memorial Coliseum are sold through the **Rose Quarter** box office (✆ **503/797-9619;** www.rosequarter.com). The Rose Garden arena is home to the Portland

Trail Blazers and is the main focal point of Portland's **Rose Quarter.** This sports and entertainment neighborhood includes the Rose Garden, Memorial Coliseum, and several restaurants and bars. To reach the Rose Garden or adjacent Memorial Coliseum, take the Rose Quarter exit off I-5. Parking is expensive, so you might want to consider taking the MAX light-rail line from downtown Portland (the Rose Quarter stop is in the Fareless Square).

AUTO RACING **Portland International Raceway,** West Delta Park, 1940 N. Victory Blvd. (✆ **503/823-RACE;** www.portlandraceway.com), hosts road races, drag races, motocross and other motorcycle races, go-kart races, and even vintage-car races. February through October are the busiest months here.

BASEBALL The **Portland Beavers** (✆ **503/553-5400** or 503/224-4400 for tickets; www.portlandbeavers.com), the AAA affiliate of the San Diego Padres, play minor-league ball at PGE Park, SW 20th Avenue and Morrison Street. Tickets are $8 to $13.

BASKETBALL The NBA's **Portland Trail Blazers** (✆ **503/231-8000** or 503/797-9600; www.nba.com/blazers) have a very loyal following. Unfortunately, they also have a habit of not quite making it all the way to the top. The Blazers pound the boards at the Rose Garden arena. Call for current schedule and ticket information. Tickets are $10 to $139. If the Blazers are doing well, you can bet that tickets will be hard to come by.

9 Day Spas

If you prefer massages and facials to hikes in the woods, consider spending a few hours at a day spa. These facilities typically offer massages, facials, body wraps, and the like. Portland day spas include the **Avalon Hotel & Spa,** 0455 SW Hamilton Ct. (✆ **503/564-4663;** www.avalonhotelandspa.com); and **Salon Nyla—The Day Spa,** 327 SW Pine St. (✆ **503/228-0389;** www.salonnyla.com), which is adjacent to the Embassy Suites hotel. However, the most unusual day spas in town are in the Pearl District. **Nirvana Apothecary & Day Spa,** 736 NW 11th Ave. (✆ **503/546-8155;** www.nirvanadayspa.com), is done up sort of like a Moroccan palace, while **Aequis,** 419 SW 11th Ave. (✆ **503/223-7847;** www.aequisspa.com), is an Asian-inspired retreat. Expect to pay about $85 or $130 for a 1-hour massage and $200 to more than $1,000 for a multi-treatment spa package.

7 Walking Tour of Portland

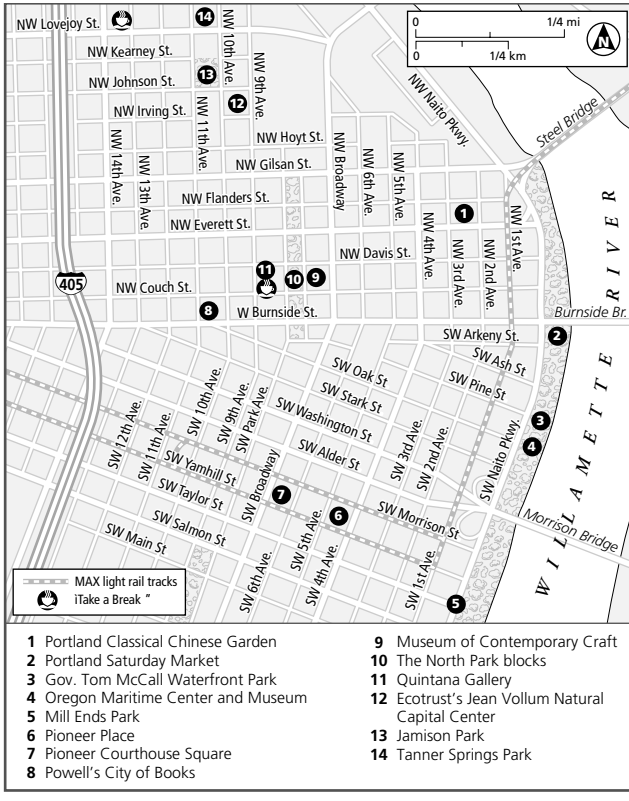
Portland's compactness makes it an ideal city to explore on foot. There's no better way to gain a feel for this city than to stroll through Tom McCall Waterfront Park, around downtown, and over to the hip and bustling Pearl District. If you're here on the weekend, you'll also be able to visit the Portland Saturday Market. For additional information on several stops in this stroll, see chapter 6.

WALKING TOUR — **THE BEST OF DOWNTOWN, CHINATOWN & THE PEARL DISTRICT**

Start:	**Portland Classical Chinese Garden.**
Finish:	**Tanner Springs Park.**
Time:	**Allow all day for this walking tour, including stops at attractions, breaks, and shops.**
Best Times:	**Saturday and Sunday between March and December, when the Portland Saturday Market is open; start early in the day so you can visit the Chinese Garden before the crowds arrive.**
Worst Times:	**Monday, when museums are closed.**

Every decade or so Portland seems to hit on some great idea for reinventing its inner city. Back in the 1970s, it was the removal of a highway so a park could be built along the Willamette River waterfront. In the 1980s, it was the preservation of the Skidmore Historic District (Old Town), the city's last remaining 19th-century downtown commercial neighborhood. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, an area of northwest Portland that consisted of old warehouses and a sprawling railroad yard became the new frontier. Now known as the Pearl District, this latter area has become the hottest real estate in the city and is frequently flaunted as an example of how cities can do things right by creating urban villages. After starting out in the city's small Chinatown, this walking tour meanders through the abovementioned neighborhoods, plus the city's vibrant downtown core, showcasing more than a century of Portland urban living.

Walking Tour: Chinatown, Old Town & the Pearl District



1. Portland Classical Chinese Garden
2. Portland Saturday Market
3. Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park
4. Oregon Maritime Center and Museum
5. Mill Ends Park
6. Pioneer Place
7. Pioneer Courthouse Square
8. Powell's City of Books
9. Museum of Contemporary Craft
10. The North Park blocks
11. Quintana Gallery
12. Ecotrust's Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center
13. Jamison Park
14. Tanner Springs Park

Begin your walking tour at the corner of NW Everett Street and NW Third Avenue at the:

1 Portland Classical Chinese Garden

This is the largest classical Suzhou-style Chinese garden outside of China. With its tiled roofs, pond, bridges, and landscaping that conjures up images from Chinese scroll paintings, the garden is an urban oasis.

If it's a Saturday or Sunday between March and December, walk east on NW Everett Street to NW Naito Parkway and turn right. In 3 blocks, you'll likely spot the crowds of people under the Burnside Bridge at the:

❷ Portland Saturday Market

Here you'll find a wide variety of crafts by Northwest artisans. Typically nearly 300 artisans plus entertainers and food vendors set up shop, and though a lot of what's sold here these days tends to be cheap gifts, there are still plenty of quality vendors of fine crafts.

From the Portland Saturday Market, walk south through:

❸ Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park

This long swath of green fronts the Willamette River and was once the site of a highway. Today the park hosts summertime festivals and is a popular place for jogging, bicycling, and strolling by the river. If you're a serious power walker and want to add an extra 3 miles of walking to this tour, you can walk a loop around the Willamette by crossing the Steel Bridge (at the north end of Waterfront Park) to the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and then returning to the west bank via the Hawthorne Bridge.

Just about the first thing you'll see when you enter Waterfront Park is the:

❹ Oregon Maritime Center and Museum

This floating museum is housed in the stern-wheeler *Portland* and is dedicated to Oregon's shipping history. Walk down the gangplank, and you can take a tour of this old paddle-wheeler.

Continue through the park for about 7 blocks and cross back over Naito Parkway at SW Taylor Street, where, in the middle of the parkway, you'll find:

❺ Mill Ends Park

Covering a grand total of only 452 square *inches,* this diminutive public space is the world's smallest public park. It was the fictitious creation of a journalist whose office looked down on a hole where a telephone pole had been removed.

Continue up SW Taylor Street, turn right on SW Fourth Avenue, and then left on SW Yamhill Street, where you'll find:

❻ Pioneer Place

This is Portland's premier downtown shopping mall, so if you're in the mood to do some shopping, be sure to take a stroll around inside.

From the mall, continue up SW Yamhill Street two blocks to:

❼ Pioneer Courthouse Square

This brick-paved square hosts countless events each year, from free concerts to protest rallies. The square has numerous sculptures, and is also home to the city's main visitor center. If you can get here by noon, you can catch the midday performance of the square's *Weather Machine,* a mechanical sculpture.

From the square, walk up SW Yamhill Street to the corner of SW 10th Avenue, where you can catch a free northbound Portland Streetcar to the corner of NW Couch Street, which is the site of:

8 Powell's City of Books

This massive bookstore has long been Portland's favorite hangout for bookworms, and schedules frequent author appearances and book signings. You can easily spend hours perusing the three floors of books here. If your energy level flags, you can get a light meal or espresso in the bookstore's cafe.

TAKE A BREAK
Even if you haven't yet worked up an appetite, stop at **Pearl Bakery,** 102 NW Ninth Ave. (✆ **503/827-0910**). Don't pass up an opportunity to sample the pastries at this classic little bakery on the edge of the Pearl District.

From Powell's, walk down NW Couch Street, through the North Park Blocks, and turn left on NW Eighth Avenue, which will bring you to the:

9 Museum of Contemporary Craft

If you stopped at the Portland Saturday Market, you've already seen that this city abounds in artisans. At this small museum, you peruse exhibits displaying works by some of the nation's foremost craftspeople. The crafts on display here are always on the cutting edge.

From this museum, cross the street and stroll through the:

10 The North Park Blocks

These shady blocks are among the prettiest parks in downtown Portland. In the block between Northwest Couch and West Burnside streets, you'll see a large Chinese bronze elephant sculpture that was donated to the city. If you then walk north through the Park Blocks to the Northwest Park Avenue side of the parks between Northwest Davis and Northwest Everett streets, you'll come across one of the most unusual sculptures/fountains in the city. The *Portland Dog Bowl* was created by celebrated dog photographer William Wegman and consists of a bronze dog-bowl water fountain on a stone checkerboard-patterned "floor."

Now walk back to NW Davis Street and turn right. At the next corner, NW Ninth Avenue, turn left, and in the middle of the block, at 120 NW Ninth Ave., you'll find:

11 Quintana Gallery

You simply won't find a better selection of Northwest Coast Native American art than at this little gallery. There are both traditional

and contemporary pieces by Native American artists from the Northwest and beyond.

Now continue west to NW 10th Avenue and turn right. In 6 blocks, at the corner of NW 10th and NW Irving Street, you'll find one of the most unusual buildings in the Pearl District, the:

⓬ Ecotrust's Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center

You'll immediately notice that the facade of this building is a merger between historic building and modern architecture. What you can't see are all the environmentally aware "green" building techniques that were used in this structure's renovation. Recycled materials have been used extensively throughout the building. The roof has been transformed into a garden to reduce storm-water runoff. Even the parking lot got a green-makeover: The lot drains rainwater into a bioswale of shrubs and other plants that absorbs contaminants and also reduces storm-water runoff. Today the building is home to environmental and other nonprofit organizations. You'll also find a Patagonia store, a pizza counter, and an espresso bar.

Diagonally across the intersection from the Ecotrust building is:

⓭ Jamison Park

With its crushed rock plaza, wooden sidewalk, benches, and bistro tables, this little park looks as though it could have been transported from some neighborhood in Paris. Although this is a great place to just sit in the sun and read a book, it is particularly popular with families, who let the kids play in the park's unusual pondlike water feature, which has a long waterfall wall along one side.

Continue 2 more blocks on NW 10th Avenue and you'll come to the unusual little:

⓮ Tanner Springs Park

This park is something of an architectural natural area that conjures up the ghosts of both the springs that once flowed on this spot and the railroad yards that were here before the Pearl District's blocks of new high-rises. This is a pleasant place to sit down and rest after a long and exhausting exploration of the city.

TAKE A BREAK

No Portland peregrination would be complete without a stop to quaff a craft beer at a brewpub. Three blocks from Tanner Springs Park, you can stop to heft a pint at **Bridgeport Brewpub & Bakery,** 1313 NW Marshall St. (✆ **503/241-3612**), one of Portland's oldest alehouses.

8 Shopping

Portland has no sales tax, making it a popular shopping destination for Washingtonians, who cross the Columbia River to avoid paying their state's substantial sales tax.

1 The Shopping Scene

The **blocks around Pioneer Courthouse Square** are the heartland of upscale shopping in Portland. It's here that you'll find Nordstrom, Macy's, NIKETOWN, Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany, the Pioneer Place shopping mall, and numerous upscale boutiques and shops.

However, Portland's hippest shopping districts are the **Pearl District** and **Nob Hill/Northwest,** both of which are in Northwest Portland. Most of the Pearl District's best shopping is along NW 10th and 11th avenues going north from West Burnside Street. Here you'll find all kinds of trendy boutiques, art galleries, and home-furnishing stores. The best Nob Hill shopping is along NW 23rd Avenue going north from West Burnside Street. Both neighborhoods have block after block of interesting, hip boutiques, and, along NW 23rd Avenue, a few national chains such as Gap, Urban Outfitters, and Pottery Barn.

For shops with a more down-to-earth, funky flavor, head out to the **Hawthorne District,** which is the city's counterculture shopping area (lots of tie-dye and imports).

Most small stores in Portland are open Monday through Saturday from 9 or 10am to 5 or 6pm. Shopping malls are usually open Monday through Friday from 9 or 10am to 9pm, Saturday from 9 or 10am to between 6 and 9pm, and Sunday from 11am until 6pm. Many department stores stay open past 6pm. Most art galleries and antiques stores are closed on Monday.

2 Shopping A to Z

ANTIQUES

The **Sellwood/Westmoreland** neighborhood (south of downtown at the east end of the Sellwood Bridge) is Portland's main antiques-shopping district, with about a dozen antiques shops and antiques

malls along SE 13th Avenue and SE Milwaukie Avenue. With its old Victorian homes and 19th-century architecture, Sellwood and Westmoreland are the ideal setting for these shops. Plenty of good restaurants are in the area, just in case it turns into an all-day outing.

You'll also find three more large antiques malls (all under the same ownership) nearby on Milwaukie Boulevard: **Stars,** at 6717 SE Milwaukie Blvd. (✆ **503/235-9142;** www.starsantique.com), and at 7027 SE Milwaukie Blvd. (✆ **503/239-0346**); and **Stars & Splendid,** 7030 SE Milwaukie Blvd. (✆ **503/235-5990**).

ART GALLERIES

On the **first Thursday of the month,** galleries in downtown Portland schedule coordinated openings in the evening. Stroll from one gallery to the next, meeting artists and perhaps buying an original work of art. On the last Thursday of each month, galleries in the NE Alberta Street neighborhood stage a similar event. This latter event tends to attract a very culturally diverse crowd. To find NE Alberta Street, drive north from downtown Portland on I-5 and watch for the NE Alberta Street exit.

Augen Gallery When it opened nearly 20 years ago, the Augen Gallery focused on internationally recognized artists such as Jim Dine, Andy Warhol, and David Hockney. Today, the gallery has expanded its repertoire to regional contemporary painters and printmakers as well. A second gallery is located at 817 SW Second Ave. (✆ **503/224-8182**). 716 NW Davis St. ✆ **503/546-5056.** www.augengallery.com.

Blackfish Gallery Artist-owned since 1979, the Blackfish is a large space featuring contemporary images. Since this gallery is a cooperative, it doesn't have the same constraints as a commercial art gallery and thus can present more cutting-edge and thought-provoking work. 420 NW Ninth Ave. ✆ **503/224-2634.** www.blackfish.com.

The Bullseye Connection Gallery Located in the Pearl District, the Bullseye Gallery is Portland's premier art-glass gallery and shows the art work of internationally acclaimed glass artists. 300 NW 13th Ave. ✆ **503/227-0222.** www.bullseyegallery.com.

The Laura Russo Gallery The focus here is on Northwest contemporary artists, showcasing talented emerging artists as well as the estates of well-known regional artists. Laura Russo has long been a highly respected figure in the Portland art scene. 805 NW 21st Ave. ✆ **503/226-2754.** www.laurarusso.com.

Metalurges This attractive little light-filled gallery in southeast Portland showcases the work of metal-worker Susan Levine. You'll

The City of Books

Portland's own **Powell's City of Books,** 1005 W. Burnside St. (✆ **800/878-7323** or 503/228-4651; www.powells.com), is the bookstore to end all bookstores. Powell's, which covers an entire city block three floors deep, claims to be the world's largest bookstore. At any given time, the store has roughly three-quarters of a million books on the shelves. Both new and used books are shelved side by side, which is why browsing is what Powell's is all about.

Once inside the store, be sure to pick up a store map, which will direct you to the color-coded rooms. Serious book collectors won't want to miss a visit to the Rare Book Room.

One warning: If you haven't got at least an hour of free time, enter at your own risk. It's so easy to lose track of time at Powell's that many customers miss meals and end up in the store's in-house cafe.

Believe it or not, City of Books is even bigger than what you see here; it has several satellite stores, including **Powell's Technical Books,** 33 NW Park Ave.; **Powell's Books for Home and Garden,** 3747 SE Hawthorne Blvd.; **Powell's Books on Hawthorne,** 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.; and **Powell's Books at PDX,** Portland International Airport, 7000 NE Airport Way, Suite 2250.

find colorful metal clocks, mirrors, outdoor sculptures, and other works. Hours are limited, so call first. 3601 SE Division St. ✆ **503/230-0588.** www.metalurges.com.

Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery This downtown gallery has a wide selection of works by 250 Northwest artists. Sales here help support the Portland Art Museum. 1237 SW Tenth Ave. ✆ **503/224-0674.** www.portlandartmuseum.org.

Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery This gallery represents a long list of both talented newcomers and masters from the Northwest. Solo shows and salon-style group shows are held here. 929 NW Flanders St. ✆ **503/228-6665.** www.pulliamdeffenbaugh.com.

Quintana Galleries This large, bright space is a virtual museum of Native American art, selling everything from Northwest Coast Indian

masks to Navajo rugs to contemporary paintings and sculptures by Native American artists. They also carry a smattering of Native American artifacts from both the Northwest and the Southwest. The jewelry selection is outstanding. Prices, however, are not cheap. 120 NW Ninth Ave. ✆ **800/321-1729** or 503/223-1729. www.quintanagalleries.com.

BOOKS

Major chain bookstores in Portland include **Barnes & Noble,** 1720 Jantzen Beach Center (✆ **503/283-2800;** www.barnesandnoble.com), and **Borders,** 708 SW Third Ave. (✆ **503/220-5911;** www.borders.com). For information on Portland's massive Powell's City of Books, see the box on the previous page.

CRAFTS

For the largest selection of local crafts, visit the **Portland Saturday Market** (see "Markets," p. 113), which is a showcase for local crafts.

City Arts Sort of a smaller, indoor version of the Portland Saturday Market, this downtown gallery showcases the work of dozens of local artists and craftspeople. You'll find everything from fine art to fashions. 902 SW Morrison St. ✆ **503/224-4777.** www.cityartsoregon.com.

Museum of Contemporary Craft Gallery In business since 1937, and located on the North Park Blocks, which are on the edge of the Pearl District, this is the nation's oldest not-for-profit art gallery. It shows only works of clay, glass, fiber, metal, and wood. The bulk of the large gallery is filled with glass and ceramic pieces. You can also browse several cabinets of jewelry. 724 NW Davis St. ✆ **503/223-2654.** www.contemporarycrafts.org.

Hoffman Gallery The Hoffman Gallery is on the campus of the Oregon College of Art and Craft, one of the nation's foremost crafts education centers since 1906. The gallery hosts installations and group shows by local, national, and international artists. The adjacent gift shop has a good selection of handcrafted items. 8245 SW Barnes Rd. ✆ **503/297-5544.** www.ocac.edu.

The Real Mother Goose This is Portland's premier fine crafts shop and one of the top such shops in the United States. It showcases only the very best contemporary American crafts, including imaginative ceramics, colorful art glass, intricate jewelry, exquisite wooden furniture, and sculptural works. Hundreds of craftspeople and artists from all over the United States are represented here. An outlet is also located at Portland International Airport, Main Terminal (✆ **503/284-9929**). 901 SW Yamhill St. ✆ **503/223-9510.** www.therealmothergoose.com.

Twist This large store has quite a massive selection of wildly colorful and imaginative furniture, crockery, glassware, and lamps, and also a limited but impressive selection of handmade jewelry by artists from around the United States. 30 NW 23rd Place ✆ **503/224-0334.** www.twistonline.com. Also at Pioneer Place, 700 SW Fifth Ave. (✆ **503/222-3137**).

DEPARTMENT STORES

Macy's Completely renovated and remodeled in 2007, this department store is in a historic building overlooking Pioneer Courthouse Square. If you didn't find it at Nordstrom, across the square, maybe you'll find it here. 621 SW Fifth Ave. ✆ **503/223-0512.** www.macys.com.

Nordstrom Across the street from Pioneer Courthouse Square, Nordstrom is a top-of-the-line department store that originated in Seattle and takes great pride in its personal service and friendliness. 701 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/224-6666.** www.nordstrom.com. Also at 1001 Lloyd Center (✆ **503/287-2444**) and 9700 SW Washington Square Rd., Tigard (✆ **503/620-0555**).

FASHION

MEN'S & WOMEN'S

Langlitz Leathers This family-run shop produces the Rolls Royce of leather jackets. Even though there may be a wait (the shop turns out only six handmade jackets a day), motorcyclists ride their Harleys all the way from the East Coast to be fitted. 2443-A SE Division St. ✆ **503/235-0959.** www.langlitz.com.

Portland Outdoor Store In business since 1919, this western-wear store is a Portland institution that feels little changed from decades ago. The big neon sign out front and the old general store atmosphere are enough to pull in people who aren't into playing cowboy or cowgirl. 304 SW Third Ave. ✆ **800/222-1051** or 503/222-1051.

The Portland Pendleton Shop Pendleton wool is as much a part of life in the Northwest as forests and salmon. This company's fine wool designs for men and women define the country-club look in the Northwest and in many other parts of the United States. Pleated skirts and tweed jackets are de rigueur here, as are the colorful blankets that have warmed generations of Northwesterners through long chilly winters. 900 SW Fifth Ave. (entrance is actually on Fourth Ave. between Salmon and Taylor). ✆ **800/241-9665** or 503/242-0037.

SPORTSWEAR

Columbia Sportswear Company This flagship store is surprisingly low-key, given that the nearby Nike flagship store and REI in

Seattle are designed to knock your socks off. Displays showing Columbia Sportswear's well-made outdoor clothing and sportswear are rustic, with lots of natural wood. The most dramatic architectural feature of the store is the entryway—a very wide tree trunk seems to support the roof. 911 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/226-6800.** www.columbia.com.

Columbia Sportswear Company Factory Outlet Store *Value* This outlet store in the Sellwood neighborhood south of downtown and across the river sells remainders and past-season styles from the above-mentioned sportswear company, which is one of the Northwest's premiere outdoor clothing manufacturers. You'll pay 30% to 50% less here than you will at the downtown flagship store. 1323 SE Tacoma St. ✆ **503/238-0118.** www.columbia.com.

Nike Factory Company Store *Value* The Nike outlet is one season behind the current season at NIKETOWN (see below), selling swoosh-brand running, aerobic, tennis, golf, basketball, kids, and you-name-it shoes, sports clothing, and accessories at discounted prices. 2650 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ✆ **503/281-5901.** www.nike.com.

NIKETOWN Portland Sure, you may have a NIKETOWN back home, but this one is the closest to Nike's headquarters in nearby Beaverton, which somehow makes it just a little bit special. A true shopping experience. 930 SW Sixth Ave. ✆ **503/221-6453.** www.nike.com.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

CHANGES/Designs to Wear This shop specializes in handmade clothing, including handwoven scarves, jackets, shawls, handpainted silks, and other wearable art. 927 SW Yamhill St. ✆ **503/223-3737.** www.therealmothergoose.com.

Desperado Let your inner cowgirl run wild at this fun shop in the Pearl District. While the custom boots are among the most popular items, you can put together an entire wardrobe of western-wear here. Men and kids are welcome, too. 428 NW 11th Ave. ✆ **503/294-2952.** www.godesperado.com.

Imelda's Ooooh! Look at those, and those, and those! That's the usual response upon first gaze through the window of Imelda's. If you live for shoes (don't deny it; you know you do), do not miss Imelda's. There's a second shop at 3426 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (✆ **503/233-7476**). 935 NW Everett St. ✆ **503/595-4970.** www.imeldasandlouies.com.

Kathleen's of Dublin The classic styles here, imported from Ireland, Scotland, and the Celtic isles are meant to last a lifetime not just a season and many are made from Irish linen and wool. 737 SW Salmon St. ✆ **503/224-4869.** www.kathleensofdublin.com.

Paloma Clothing In business for 30 years, this store specializes in comfortable and artistic clothes for travel, work, and play, and has long been one of my wife's favorite places to shop. The store is a short drive from downtown, so call for directions. Hillsdale Shopping Center, 6316 SW Capitol Hwy. ✆ **503/246-3417.** www.palomaclothing.com.

Seaplane Portland's most celebrated boutique, featured in numerous national fashion magazines, is a collective of cutting edge fashion designers. The styles here are definitely for the young fashionistas, but even if you aren't about to wear any of these outfits, you should stop by to see what local designers are up to. 827 NW 23rd Ave. ✆ **503/234-2409.** www.e-seaplane.com.

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

For unique locally made souvenirs, your best bet is the **Portland Saturday Market** (see "Markets," below, for details).

Made in Oregon This is your one-stop shop for all manner of made-in-Oregon gifts, food products, and clothing. Every product sold is either grown, caught, or made in Oregon. You'll find smoked salmon, filberts, jams and jellies, Pendleton woolens, and Oregon wines. All branches are open daily, but hours vary from store to store. Other branches are in the Portland International Airport (✆ **503/282-7827**); and in Lloyd Center mall, SE Multnomah St. and SE Broadway (✆ **503/282-7636**). 600 SW Tenth Ave., Suite 101 (in the Galleria). ✆ **866/257-0938** or 503/241-3630. www.madeinoregon.com.

MALLS & SHOPPING CENTERS

Pioneer Place Just a block from Pioneer Courthouse Square, this is Portland's most upscale shopping center. Anchored by a Saks Fifth Avenue, Pioneer Place is filled with stores selling designer fashions and expensive gifts. 700 SW Fifth Ave. (between Third and Fifth aves.). ✆ **503/228-5800.** www.pioneerplace.com.

MARKETS

Portland Saturday Market The Portland Saturday Market (held on both Sat and Sun) is a Portland tradition. Every weekend nearly 300 artists and craftspeople can be found selling their creations at this open-air market. In addition to the dozens of crafts stalls, you'll find ethnic and unusual foods, and lots of free entertainment. This is one of the best places in Portland to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts that are small enough to fit into your suitcase. On Sunday, on-street parking is free. The market is open from the first weekend in March to Christmas Eve Saturdays 10am to 5pm and

Sundays 11am to 4:30pm. Under the west end of the Burnside Bridge (between SW First Ave. and SW Naito Pkwy.). ✆ **503/222-6072.** www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com.

TOYS

Finnegan's Toys and Gifts This is the largest toy store in downtown Portland and appeals to the kid in all of us. It'll have your inner child kicking and screaming if you don't buy that silly little toy you never got when you were young. 922 SW Yamhill St. ✆ **503/221-0306.** www.finneganstoys.com.

WINE & SPIRITS

Clear Creek Distillery The Portland area is not known just for microbrews and pinot noir, it also produces some outstanding liquors. This distillery in northwest Portland produces astonishingly fragrant and flavorful fruit spirits in a variety of European styles such as apple and pear brandies (with fruit in the bottles), grappas, eau de vies, and fruit liqueurs. You can sample them all at this tasting room. 2389 NW Wilson St. ✆ **503/248-9470.** www.clearcreekdistillery.com.

Oregon Wines on Broadway This cozy wine bar/shop is located diagonally across from the Hotel Vintage Plaza in downtown Portland. Here you can taste some of Oregon's fine wines, including 30 different pinot noirs, as well as chardonnays, Gewürztraminers and Washington State cabernet sauvignons, merlots, and Syrahs. 515 SW Broadway. ✆ **800/943-8858** or 503/228-4655. www.oregonwinesonbroadway.com.

9 Portland After Dark

Portland is the Northwest's number-two cultural center (after Seattle, of course). The city's symphony orchestra, ballet, and opera are all well regarded, and the many theater companies offer classic and contemporary plays. In summer, festivals move the city's cultural activities outdoors.

To find out what's going on during your visit, pick up a copy of *Willamette Week,* Portland's free weekly arts-and-entertainment newspaper. The *Oregonian,* the city's daily newspaper, also publishes lots of entertainment-related information in its Friday "A&E" section and also in the Sunday edition of the paper.

1 The Performing Arts

For the most part, the Portland performing-arts scene revolves around the **Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA),** 1111 SW Broadway (✆ **503/248-4335;** www.pcpa.com), which comprises five performance spaces in three buildings. The **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall,** 1037 SW Broadway, known locally as the Schnitz, is an immaculately restored 1920s movie palace that still displays the original Portland theater sign and marquee out front and is home to the Oregon Symphony. This hall also hosts popular music performances, lectures, and many other special events. Directly across Main Street from the Schnitz, at 1111 SW Broadway, is the glass jewel box known as **Antoinette Hatfield Hall.** This building houses the **Newmark** and **Dolores Winningstad theaters** and **Brunish Hall.** The two theaters host stage productions by local and visiting companies. Free tours of all three of these theaters are held Wednesdays at 11am, Saturdays every half-hour between 11am and 1pm, and the first Thursday of every month at 6pm.

A few blocks away from this concentration of venues is the 3,000-seat **Keller Auditorium,** 222 SW Clay St., the largest of the four halls and the home of the Portland Opera and the Oregon Ballet Theatre. The auditorium was constructed shortly after World War I

and completely remodeled in the 1960s. In addition to the resident companies mentioned above, these halls host numerous visiting companies each year, including touring Broadway shows.

The PCPA's box office is open for ticket sales Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Tickets to PCPA performances, and events at many other venues around the city, are also sold through either **Ticketmaster** (✆ **503/224-4400;** www.ticketmaster.com), which has outlets at area Joe's Sports, Outdoors & More and Fred Meyer stores, or **Tickets West** (✆ **800/992-8499** or 503/224-8499; www.ticketswest.com), which has outlets at area Safeway stores. The PCPA also has a **Half-Price Ticket Hotline** (✆ **503/275-8358**) that sells day-of-show, half-price tickets.

One other performing arts venue worth checking out is **The Old Church,** 1422 SW 11th Ave. (✆ **503/222-2031;** www.oldchurch.org). Built in 1883, this wooden Carpenter Gothic church is a Portland landmark. It incorporates a grand traditional design, but was constructed with spare ornamentation. Today the building serves as a community facility, and every Wednesday at noon it hosts free lunchtime concerts. Many other performances are held here throughout the year.

DANCE

The **Oregon Ballet Theatre** (✆ **888/922-5538** or 503/222-5538; www.obt.org), which performs at the Keller Auditorium and the Newmark Theatre (see above), is best loved for its performances each December of *The Nutcracker.* The rest of each season includes performances of classic and contemporary ballets (tickets $14–$130).

Fans of modern dance should check to see what's being staged by **White Bird** (✆ **503/245-1600;** www.whitebird.org). This organization brings in such celebrated companies as Twyla Tharp Dance, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Also keep an eye out for performances by **Imago Theatre,** 17 SE Eighth Ave. (✆ **503/231-9581;** www.imagotheatre.com), which, though it is also a live theater company, is best known for its wildly creative productions of *Frogz* and *Big Little Things,* both of which are fanciful dance performances that appeal to adults and children. **Do Jump** (✆ **503/231-1232;** www.dojump.org), is another highly creative dance company worth watching for. Their performances incorporate dance, acrobatics, aerial work, and plenty of humor.

OPERA & CLASSICAL MUSIC

Founded in 1896, the **Oregon Symphony** (✆ **800/228-7343** or 503/228-1353; www.orsymphony.org), which performs at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway (see above), is the oldest symphony orchestra on the West Coast, and is currently under the baton of conductor Carlos Kalmar. Each year between September and May, the symphony stages several series, including classical, pops, Sunday matinees, and children's concerts. Ticket prices range from $15 to $102 (seniors and students may purchase half-price tickets 1 hr. before classical and pops concerts).

Each season, the **Portland Opera** (✆ **866/739-6737** or 503/241-1802; www.portlandopera.org), which performs at Keller Auditorium, SW Third Avenue and SW Clay Street (see above) and at the Hampton Opera Center, 211 SE Caruthers St., offers five different productions that include both grand opera and light opera. The season runs September through March. Ticket prices range from $42 to $148.

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

When summer hits, Portlanders like to head outdoors to hear music. The city's top outdoor music series is held at **Washington Park Zoo,** 4001 SW Canyon Rd. (✆ **503/226-1561;** www.oregonzoo.org), which brings in the likes of Keb' Mo', Gipsy Kings, Pink Martini, and Los Lobos. Ticket prices range from $10 to $24.

THEATER

Portland Center Stage (✆ **503/445-3700;** www.pcs.org), which holds performances in the Pearl District's converted Portland Armory building, which now goes by the name Gerding Theater at the Armory, 128 NW Eleventh Ave., is Portland's largest professional theater company. They stage a combination of eight to nine classic and contemporary plays during their September-to-June season (tickets $22–$62).

Portland's other main theater company, **Artists Repertory Theatre,** 1516 SW Alder St. (✆ **503/241-1278;** www.artistsrep.org), often stages more daring plays. They can be hit or miss, but they're frequently very thought-provoking. The season often includes a world premiere. Tickets run $25 to $47.

If it's musicals you want, you've got a couple of options in Portland. At the Keller Auditorium, you can catch the **Broadway in Portland** series (✆ **503/241-1802;** www.broadwayacrossamerica.com). Tickets mostly range from around $25 to $70, but some shows are more expensive.

2 The Club & Music Scene

CABARET

Darcelle's XV In business since 1967 and run by Portland's best-loved cross-dresser, this cabaret is a campy Portland institution with a female-impersonator show that has been a huge hit for years. Shows run Wednesday through Saturday. 208 NW Third Ave. ✆ **503/222-5338.** www.darcellexv.com. Cover $10. Reservations recommended.

DANCE CLUBS

See also the listing for **Saucebox,** below, under "Bars"; this restaurant and bar becomes a dance club at night, when a DJ begins spinning tunes.

Andrea's Cha-Cha Club Located in the basement of the Grand Cafe and open Wednesday through Saturday nights, this is Portland's premier dance spot for fans of Latin music. Whether it's cha-cha, salsa, or the latest dance craze from south of the border, they'll be doing it here. Lessons are available Wednesday and Friday nights at 9pm ($12 with a drink included). 832 SE Grand Ave. ✆ **503/230-1166.** Cover $3–$6.

JAZZ

Jimmy Mak's This Pearl District club is the best place in Portland to catch some live jazz and is considered one of the best jazz clubs in the country. With great resident groups performing on weeknights and guest performers on weekends, Jimmy Mak's showcases some of Portland's best jazz musicians. 221 NW Tenth Ave. ✆ **503/295-6542.** www.jimmymaks.com. Cover free to $15.

The Palm Court Hands down the most elegant old-world bar in Portland, the Palm Court is in the city's most luxurious hotel. The Circassian walnut paneling and crystal chandeliers will definitely put you in the mood for a martini or single malt. Tuesday through Saturday features live jazz in the evening. In the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/228-2000.** www.bensonhotel.com.

ROCK, BLUES & FOLK

Aladdin Theater This former movie theater now serves as one of Portland's main venues for touring performers such as Richard Thompson, Bruce Cockburn, Judy Collins, and Greg Brown. The very diverse musical spectrum represented includes blues, rock, ethnic, country, folk, and jazz. 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. ✆ **503/233-1994.** www.aladdin-theater.com. Tickets $10–$35.

Berbati's Pan Located in Old Town, this has long been one of Portland's best and most popular rock clubs. A wide variety of acts play here, primarily the best of the local rock scene and bands on the verge of breaking into the national limelight. Be sure to check out the back bar, which is 150 years old. 10 SW Third Ave. ✆ **503/226-2122.** www.berbati.com. Cover $6–$20.

Crystal Ballroom The Crystal Ballroom first opened before 1920, and since then has seen performers ranging from early jazz musicians to James Brown, Marvin Gaye, and the Grateful Dead. The McMenamin Brothers (of local brewing fame) renovated the Crystal Ballroom and refurbished its dance floor, which, due to its mechanics, feels as if it's floating. The ballroom now hosts a variety of performances and special events nearly every night of the week. **Lola's Room,** a smaller version of the Ballroom, is on the second floor and also has a floating dance floor. You'll find **Ringlers Pub** (a colorful brewpub) on the ground floor. 1332 W. Burnside St. ✆ **503/225-0047.** www.danceonair.com. Cover $5–$30.

Doug Fir Lounge North woods log-cabin styling meets Scandinavian modern at this eclectic underground alt-rock club in the burgeoning lower Burnside neighborhood of southeast Portland. The club is associated with the über-hip **Jupiter Hotel** (p. 57). 830 E. Burnside St. ✆ **503/231-9663.** www.dougfirlounge.com. Cover $6–$22.

Roseland Theater & Grill The Roseland Theater, though it isn't all that large, is currently one of Portland's two or three main venues for performances by touring national rock acts. Be sure to check the schedule; you never know who might be playing. 8 NW Sixth Ave. ✆ **503/224-2038.** www.doubletee.com. Cover $15–$70.

3 The Bar & Pub Scene

BARS

The Brazen Bean This hip cocktail and cigar bar in an old Victorian home in Northwest Portland has a cool *fin de siècle* European elegance that makes it a very classy place to sip a martini. There's a pretty little front porch and discounted martinis at happy hour. 2075 NW Glisan St. ✆ **503/294-0636.**

Huber's No night out on the town in Portland is complete until you've stopped in at Huber's for a Spanish coffee. These potent pick-me-ups are made with rum, Kahlúa, Triple Sec, coffee, and cream, and the preparation of each drink is an impressive show. 411 SW 3rd Ave. ✆ **503/228-5686.** www.hubers.com.

Jake's Famous Crawfish In business since 1892, Jake's is a Portland institution and should not be missed (see the full review on p. 64). The bar is one of the busiest in town when the downtown offices let out. 401 SW 12th Ave. ✆ **503/226-1419.** www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com.

McCormick and Schmick's Harborside Pilsner Room Located at the south end of Tom McCall Waterfront Park overlooking the Willamette River and RiverPlace Marina, this restaurant/bar is affiliated with Hood River's Full Sail brewery and keeps plenty of Full Sail brews on tap (plus other area beers as well). The crowd is upscale, the view one of the best in town. 0309 SW Montgomery St. ✆ **503/220-1865.** www.mccormickandschmicks.com.

Mint/820 Mixologist Lucy Brennan, owner of this swanky place, has single-handedly turned Portland into a town full of cocktail connoisseurs. Using fresh fruit juices, purées, and other unusual ingredients, Brennan has reinvented the cocktail. How about a beet-infused martini or a creamy avocado cocktail? 816/820 N. Russell St. ✆ **503/284-5518.** www.mintand820.com.

¡Oba! One of the trendiest bars in Portland, this big Pearl District bar/nuevo Latino restaurant has a very tropical feel despite the warehouse district locale. After work, the bar is always packed with the stylish and upwardly mobile taking advantage of great happy hour deals. Don't miss the tropical-fruit margaritas! 555 NW 12th Ave. ✆ **503/228-6161.** www.obarestaurant.com.

Portland City Grill Located way up on the 30th floor, this restaurant/bar has the best view in downtown Portland. Come for the great happy hour so you can catch the sunset, or stop by later in the night to catch some live jazz and check out the upscale singles scene. Unico/U.S. Bank Tower, 111 SW Fifth Ave. ✆ **503/450-0030.** www.portlandcitygrill.com.

Saucebox Popular with the city's dressed-in-black scene makers, this downtown restaurant/bar is a large, dramatically lit dark box that can be very noisy. DJs spin music most nights, transforming the bar into a dance club. Great cocktails. 214 SW Broadway. ✆ **503/241-3393.** www.saucebox.com.

Vault Martini No need for a combination or secret code to get into this Vault, but it does help to dress the part when drinking at this trendy Pearl District bar. The decor is sleek and stylish, and the cocktail menu is lengthy. This is one of the Pearl District's busiest singles' bars. 226 NW 12th Ave. ✆ **503/224-4909.** www.vault-martini.com.

BREWPUBS

Although brewpubs have now become commonplace throughout much of the country, here in Portland, they're still brewing beers the likes of which you won't taste in too many other places on this side of the Atlantic. This is the heart of the Northwest craft-brewing explosion, and if you're a beer connoisseur, you owe it to yourself to go directly to the source.

Brewpubs have become big business in Portland, and there are now glitzy upscale pubs as well as funky warehouse-district locals. No matter what vision you have of the ideal brewpub, you're likely to find your dream come true. Whether you're wearing bike shorts or a three-piece suit, there's a pub in Portland where you can enjoy a handcrafted beer, a light meal, and a convivial atmosphere.

With almost three dozen brewpubs in the Portland metropolitan area, the McMenamins chain is Portland's biggest brewpub empire. The owners of this empire think of themselves as court jesters, mixing brewing fanaticism with a Deadhead aesthetic. Throw in a bit of historic preservation and a strong belief in family-friendly neighborhood pubs and you'll understand why these joints are so popular.

DOWNTOWN

Ringlers Pub With mosaic pillars framing the bar, Indonesian antiques, and big old signs all around, this cavernous place is about as eclectic a brewpub as you'll ever find. A block away are the two associated pubs of **Ringlers Annex,** 1223 SW Stark St. (✆ **503/525-0520**), which is in a flat-iron building. One of these pubs is below street level with a beer-cellar feel, and the other has walls of multipaned glass. These three pubs get my vote for most atmospheric alehouses in town. 1332 W. Burnside St. ✆ **503/225-0627.** www.mcmenamins.com.

NORTHWEST PORTLAND

Bridgeport Brewpub & Bakery This stylish, industrial-chic brewpub, bakery, and restaurant is the latest incarnation of one of Portland's oldest brewpubs. On any given day, you'll find eight or more Bridgeport beers on tap. This place is loud, but the beers (and the food) are good. Don't miss the upstairs bar area. 1313 NW Marshall St. ✆ **503/241-3612.** www.bridgeportbrew.com.

Lucky Labrador Beer Hall Housed in a former trucking warehouse and with a five-ton crane still hanging above the tables of the beer hall, this is a haven of beer-driven funkiness in the trendy Northwest neighborhood. All the great beers served at Southeast

Portland's original Lucky Lab are served here. There is a limited food menu. 1945 NW Quimby St. ✆ **503/517-4352.** www.luckylab.com.

Rogue Ales Public House This Pearl District pub is an outpost of a popular microbrewery headquartered in the Oregon coast community of Newport. Rogue produces just about the widest variety of beers in the state, and, best of all, keeps lots of them on tap at this pub. If you're a fan of barley-wine ale, don't miss their Old Crustacean. 1339 NW Flanders St. ✆ **503/222-5910.** www.rogue.com.

SOUTHEAST

The Lucky Labrador Brew Pub With a warehouse-size room, industrial feel, and picnic tables on the loading dock out back, this brewpub is a classic of southeast Portland. The crowd is young, and dogs are welcome. (They don't even have to be Labs.) 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ✆ **503/236-3555.** www.luckylab.com.

Roots Organic Brewing Company Leave it to Portland, craft-brewing capital of the country, to have an all-organic brewpub. But wait, Roots is more than just an organic brewery, it crafts some of the most distinctive beers in town, including a unique ale made with heather flowers instead of hops. 1520 SE Seventh Ave. ✆ **503/235-7668.** www.rootsorganicbrewing.com.

NORTHEAST & NORTH PORTLAND

Amnesia Brewing Company With the look of an old warehouse and a "beer garden" in the parking lot, this little north Portland brewpub is another of Portland's old-school brewpubs, which means laid back in the extreme. The beers are good, but the food is pretty limited. 832 N. Beech St. ✆ **503/281-7708.**

McMenamin's Kennedy School Never thought they'd ever start serving beer in elementary school, did you? However, in the hands of the local McMenamins brewpub empire, an old northeast Portland school is now a sprawling complex complete with brewpub, beer garden, movie-theater pub, and even a bed-and-breakfast inn. Order up a pint and wander the halls checking out all the cool artwork. 5736 NE 33rd Ave. ✆ **503/249-3983.** www.mcmenamins.com.

Widmer Brewing and Gasthaus Located on the edge of a rapidly reviving industrial area just north of the Rose Garden arena, this place has the feel of a classic blue-collar pub. This pub is part of Portland's largest craft brewing company, which is best known for its hefeweizen. German and American foods are served. On the MAX Yellow Line. 929 N. Russell St. ✆ **503/281-3333.** www.widmer.com.

Moments A Portland Original: The Theater Pub

Portland brewpub magnates the McMenamin brothers (www.mcmenamins.com) have a novel way to sell their craft ales—in movie pubs. Although it's often hard to concentrate on the screen, it's always a lot of fun to attend a show. The movies are usually recent releases that have played the main theaters but have not yet made it onto DVD. Theaters include the **Bagdad Theater,** 3702 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (✆ **503/236-9234**), a restored classic Arabian-nights movie palace; the **Mission Theater,** 1624 NW Glisan St. (✆ **503/223-4527**), which was the first McMenamins theater pub; the **Kennedy School Theater,** 5736 NE 33rd Ave. (✆ **503/249-3983**), in a former elementary school; and the **Edgefield Theater,** 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale (✆ **503/669-8610**). You can also have beer and pizza with your movie at the **Laurelhurst Theater,** 2735 E. Burnside St. (✆ **503/232-5511;** www.laurelhursttheater.com), which is not a McMenamins establishment.

WINE BARS

Noble Rot With a garage door for a front wall, this stylish little wine bar opens up to the fresh air whenever the weather is conducive. You can get various wine flights (selections of 2-oz. tastings), and plenty of Oregon wines are available. The wine bar also serves excellent food. By the way, *noble rot* is a type of grape fungus that is utilized in the production of sweet dessert wines. 2724 SE Ankeny St. ✆ **503/233-1999.** www.noblerotpdx.com.

Oregon Wines on Broadway With just a handful of stools at the bar and a couple of cozy tables, this tiny place is the best spot in Portland to learn about Oregon wines. On any given night there will be 30 Oregon pinot noirs available by the glass, and plenty of white wines as well. 515 SW Broadway. ✆ **800/943-8858** or 503/228-4655. www.oregonwinesonbroadway.com.

Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar With its high ceiling, long heavy drapes, halogen lights, and lively wall mural, the wine bar at Southpark (see the full dining review on p. 64) is a contemporary interpretation of a Parisian cafe from the turn of the last century. Very romantic. 901 SW Salmon St. ✆ **503/326-1300.**

Thirst Wine Bar & Bistro This may not be the most stylish wine bar in town, but it has by far the best view of any wine bar in the

Blend Your Own Wine

Tired of wines that just don't do it for you? Always looking for a little more fruit and a little less tannin? Why not bottle up your own personal *cuvée?* At **Urban Wineworks,** 407 NW 16th Ave. (✆ **503/226-9797;** www.urbanwineworks.com), at the corner of NW Flanders Street, that's exactly what you get to do on Tuesday evenings between 6:30 and 7:30pm and Saturday afternoons between 1 and 2pm. You don't get to ferment the wine or manage the vineyard, but blending your own wine is both fun and educational. This winery also has a tasting room and wine bar, and on the first Thursday of every month between 5:30 and 8:30pm, they have artists paint an original work of art on the end of a wine barrel.

city. Thirst looks out over the RiverPlace Marina and the Willamette River, and, when the weather is good, you can sit at an outdoor table on the esplanade. 0315 SW Montgomery St., Suite 340. ✆ **503/295-2747.** www.thirstwinebar.com.

Vino Paradiso Located in the heart of the Pearl District, this is Portland's swankiest wine bar and has live music as well as lots of good wines. There are also some tasty menu items to go with your wine. 417 NW 10th Ave. ✆ **503/295-9536.** www.vinoparadiso.com.

4 The Gay & Lesbian Nightlife Scene

BARS

Crush Bar This big, hip bar is over in southeast Portland and attracts a very diverse crowd that includes not only gay men but lesbians and straights as well. The three distinct settings include a comfortable lounge, a room for dining and dancing, and a smoking room. DJs spin dance tunes most nights. 1400 SE Morrison St. ✆ **503/235-8150.** www.crushbar.com.

Eagle Bar If leather and Levi's are your uniform, then you'll feel right at home at this bar. Loud rock and DJ dance music plays most nights, and Sunday is currently leather night. 1300 W. Burnside St. ✆ **503/241-0105.** www.portlandeagle.com.

Scandal's In business for more 25 years, this bar/restaurant is both literally and figuratively at the center of the Portland gay-bar scene. Try to get a window seat so you can keep an eye on passersby on the sidewalk. 1125 SW Stark St. ✆ **503/227-5887.**

DANCE CLUBS

Boxxes/Redcap Garage Billing itself as Portland's original gay dance club, Boxxes and the connected Redcap Garage, together provide a dynamic duo of dance floors. When you work up an appetite from all that dancing, you can head to the club's Fish Grotto Seafood Restaurant for a meal. 1035 SW Stark St. ✆ **503/226-4171.** www.boxxes.com. Cover free–$3.

C.C. Slaughters Popular with a young crowd, this big Old Town nightclub spins disco sounds most nights, with a night of country music each week. 219 NW Davis St. ✆ **503/248-9135.** www.ccslaughterspdx.com. Cover free–$5.

The Egyptian Club Portland is well known for having a large lesbian community, and this bar has long been a favorite with young, partying women. The club is really three clubs in one, with pool room, a karaoke bar, and a dance bar. They also host lots of special events, too. 3701 SE Division St. ✆ **503/236-8689.** www.eroompdx.com. Cover $5.

The Embers Avenue Though primarily a gay disco, Embers is also popular with straights. You can always count on lots of flashing lights and sweaty bodies until the early morning. Currently Wednesday is goth night and Sunday is Latino night. Look for drag shows several nights a week. 110 NW Broadway. ✆ **503/222-3082.** www.emberspdx.com. Cover free–$6.

10 Side Trips from Portland

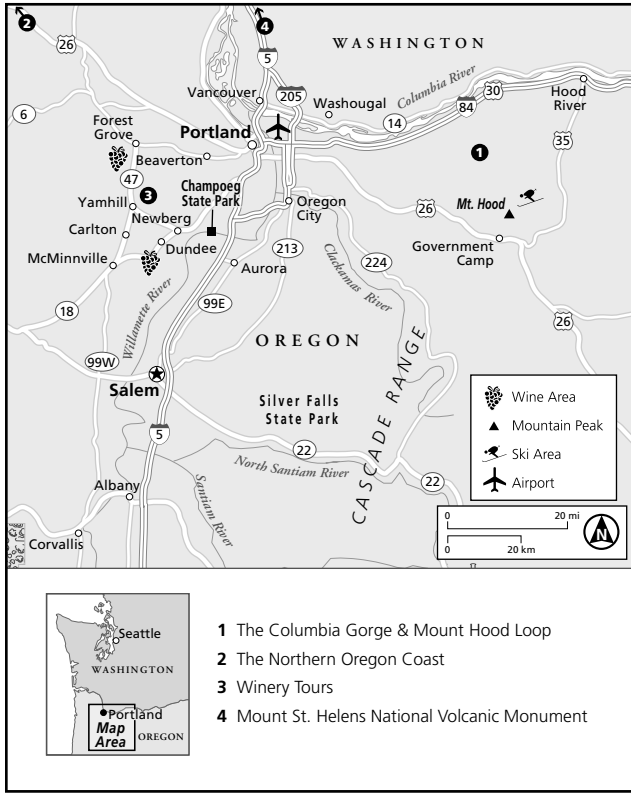
Portland likes to boast of its proximity to both the mountains and the beach, and no visit would be complete without a trip to either. Within a 90-minute drive, you can be walking on a Pacific Ocean beach or skiing on Mount Hood (even in the middle of summer, when there is lift-accessed snow skiing at one ski area). A drive through the Columbia River Gorge, a National Scenic Area, is an absolute must; if wine is your interest, you can spend a day visiting wineries and driving through the rolling farmland that enticed pioneers to travel the Oregon Trail beginning in the 1840s; and if you remember May 18, 1980, visit Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument for a close-up view of the natural disaster that took place on that day.

1 The Columbia Gorge & Mount Hood Loop

If you have time for only one excursion from Portland, I strongly urge you to do the Mount Hood Loop. This is a long trip, so start your day as early as possible.

To begin your trip, take I-84 east out of Portland. At Troutdale, take the exit marked **Historic Columbia River Highway** (U.S. 30) ★★. This scenic highway was built between 1913 and 1922, and it was an engineering marvel in its day. However, the feat is dwarfed by the spectacular vistas that present themselves along its twisting, turning route. To learn more about the road and how it was built, stop at **Vista House** ★★, 40700 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. (✆ **503/695-2230;** www.vistahouse.com), 733 feet above the river on **Crown Point.** Although there are displays of historical photos here at Vista House, most visitors can't concentrate on the exhibits, preferring to gaze at the breathtaking views that stretch for 30 miles up and down the Columbia River. Vista House is open daily from 9am to 6pm.

Between Troutdale and Ainsworth State Park, 22 miles east, you'll pass numerous waterfalls, including Latourelle, Shepherds Dell, Bridal Veil, Wahkeena, Horsetail, Oneonta, and **Multnomah Falls** ★★★. At 620 feet from lip to pool, Multnomah Falls is the tallest waterfall in



Oregon and is one of the state's top tourist attractions. Expect crowds. A paved trail leads from the base of the falls to the top and connects with other unpaved trails that are usually not at all crowded.

Not far beyond Multnomah Falls, you'll come to the narrow **Oneonta Gorge** ★★. This narrow cleft in the rock has long been a popular summertime walk for the sure of foot. The gorge can usually be explored for about ½ mile upstream to a waterfall that pours into a small pool of very cold water. There is no trail here; you just hike up the creek itself, so wear shoes that can get wet.

The next stop on your tour should be **Bonneville Lock and Dam** ★. One of the dam's most important features, attracting thousands of visitors each year, is its fish ladder, which allows the upriver migration of salmon. Underwater windows permit visitors to see fish

as they pass through the ladder. Visit the adjacent fish hatchery to see how trout, salmon, and sturgeon are raised before they are released into the river, and be sure not to miss the underwater viewing window at the sturgeon pond. June and September are the best months to observe salmon at the fish ladder.

This is the first of many dams on the Columbia River and, along with the other dams, has been the focus of a heated environmental debate over saving the region's dwindling native wild salmon populations. Despite fish ladders and fish hatcheries, wild salmon have for many years been fighting an upstream battle for survival. Adult salmon heading up river to spawn have to contend with fishermen (both commercial and sport) and spawning beds that are sometimes destroyed or silted up, often by the common practice of clear-cutting timber from steep mountainsides. Among the perils faced by young salmon heading downstream are slow, warm waters that delay the journey to the Pacific Ocean, electrical turbines in dams (these kill countless numbers of fish), and irrigation culverts that often lead salmon out into farm fields. Effective means to promote salmon survival continue to be sought, and it is hoped that the dams that once brought prosperity and cheap electricity to the Northwest won't bring about the demise of one of the Northwest's most important icons.

Not far past the dam is the **Bridge of the Gods,** a two-lane toll bridge that connects Oregon to Washington at the site where a Native American legend says a natural bridge once stood. Geologists are now convinced that this legend has its basis in a relatively recent geological event—a massive landslide that may have occurred as recently as 250 years ago. The slide completely blocked the river, and when the Columbia finally poured over the top of this natural dam, the water unleashed a 100-foot flood downstream and rapidly eroded the natural earthen dam, leaving only huge slabs of rocks in the riverbed. These rocks created the cascades for which both the Cascade Range and Cascade Locks were named.

On the Washington side of the Columbia River, east of the Bridge of the Gods, is the **Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center** ★★, 990 SW Rock Creek Dr., Stevenson (✆ **800/991-2338;** www.columbiagorge.org). This modern museum is the single best introduction to the natural and human history of the Columbia Gorge and has a superb view (when it's not cloudy). Exhibits focus on the gorge's early Native American inhabitants and the development of the area by white settlers. A relic here that you can't miss is a 37-foot-high replica of a 19th-century fish wheel, which helps show how salmon

Airport
Mountain peak
Ski area
Seattle
WASHINGTON
Map Area
Portland
OREGON
0 10 mi
0 10 km
WASHINGTON
OREGON
Mt. St. Helens
Mt. Adams
Pacific Crest Trail
INDIAN HEAVEN WILDERNESS
Lewis River
White Salmon River
Trout Lake
Wind River
Carson
Stevenson
Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center
Bonneville Lock and Dam
Cascade Locks
Bridge of the Gods
Eagle Creek
Columbia River
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
Columbia River Highway
Multnomah Falls
Washougal River
Washougal
Vista House
Troutdale
Gresham
Sandy River
Sandy
Welches
ZigZag
Lost Lake
Mt. Hood
Timberline Lodge
Government Camp
Hood River
White Salmon
Klickitat River
COLUMBIA HILLS STATE PARK
The Dalles
DESCHUTES RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA
Deschutes River
Goldendale
Amboy
Battle Ground
Vancouver
Portland
Willamette River
Oregon City
Newberg
Dundee
St. Helens
503
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84
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14
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142
97
35
197

runs were decimated in the past. Admission is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors and students, $5 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. The center is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Just beyond Bridge of the Gods on the Oregon side is the town of **Cascade Locks,** where you can see the navigational locks that were built to enable river traffic to avoid the treacherous passage through the cascades that once existed at this spot. In early years, many boats were portaged around the cascades instead of attempting the dangerous trip. When the locks were opened in 1896, they made traveling between The Dalles and Portland much easier. But the completion of the Historic Columbia River Highway in 1922 made the trip even easier by land. With the construction of the Bonneville Dam, the cascades were flooded, and the locks became superfluous.

The **Port of Cascade Locks Visitors Center,** which has displays on river travel in the past, is also the ticket office for the **Sternwheeler *Columbia Gorge*** ★★ (✆ **800/224-3901** or 541/224-3900; www.sternwheeler.com), which makes regular trips on the river. These cruises provide a great perspective on the Gorge. Fares for the 2-hour scenic cruises are $25 for adults, $15 for children; dinner and brunch cruises run $42 to $64 for adults and $21 to $59 for children. These cruises should not be missed on a visit to the Columbia Gorge.

Anyone who windsurfs has likely heard of the town of **Hood River** ★★. Due to the strong winds that blow through the gorge in summer, the section of the Columbia River near this town is one of the most popular windsurfing spots in the world. Almost every other car in this once-sleepy little town seems to have a sailboard on the roof. If you want to try this sport yourself, stop by one of the many sailboard shops downtown for information on rentals and lessons.

If you are staying overnight on the loop, you might want to consider getting out of your car and riding the rails. The **Mount Hood Railroad** ★, 110 Railroad Ave., Hood River (✆ **800/872-4661** or 541/386-3556; www.mthoodrr.com), operates an excursion train from late March to late December carrying passengers up the Hood River Valley from the town of Hood River to Odell or Parkdale and back. The railroad cars are vintage Pullman coaches, and the Mount Hood Railroad Depot is a National Historic Site. For the 2-hour excursion, fares are $25 for adults, $23 for seniors, and $15 for children 2 to 12. The schedule varies with the season (July–Aug, the train runs Tues–Sun), so call ahead to make a reservation. There are also regularly scheduled dinner, brunch, and other specialty excursions.

From Hood River, turn south on Ore. 35, passing through thousands of acres of apple and pear orchards. Every fall, roadside stands

in this area sell fresh fruit and fruit products. The orchards are especially beautiful in the spring, when the trees are in bloom. No matter what time of year, you will have the snow-covered peak of Mount Hood in view as you drive through the orchards, making them all the more spectacular.

Just after Ore. 35 merges into U.S. 26, turn right onto the road to **Timberline Lodge** ✰✰. As the name implies, this lodge is at the timberline, and a July or August walk on one of the trails in the vicinity will lead you through wildflower-filled meadows. Surprisingly, because of the snowfields above the lodge, you can also ski and snowboard here all summer long.

To return to Portland, take U.S. 26 west to Gresham, and then follow signs for I-84.

WHERE TO STAY

Columbia Gorge Hotel ✰✰ Just west of Hood River off I-84, and in business since shortly after 1921, this little oasis of luxury offers a genteel atmosphere that was once enjoyed by Rudolph Valentino and Clark Gable. With its yellow-stucco walls and red-tile roofs, this hotel would be at home in Beverly Hills, and the hotel gardens could hold their own amid the many public gardens of Victoria, British Columbia. The hotel is perched more than 200 feet above the river on a steep cliff, and it is difficult to take your eyes off the view. Be forewarned, though, that the rooms are rather cramped, as are the bathrooms. On Sunday, the hotel's dining room serves a huge multi-course breakfast that has long been legendary in the region. There's also a nightly hosted social hour.

4000 Westcliff Dr., Hood River, OR 97031. ✆ **800/345-1921** or 541/386-5566. Fax 541/386-9141. www.columbiagorgehotel.com. 40 units. $169–$259 double; $279–$379 suite. Children 4 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted ($35). **Amenities:** Restaurant (Northwest/Continental); lounge; concierge; business center; full-service spa; massage; babysitting. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, fridge, minibar, hair dryer, iron. Closed for 1 week each Jan.

Skamania Lodge ✰✰✰ Boasting the most spectacular vistas of any hotel in the gorge, Skamania Lodge is also the only golf resort around. Even if you don't golf, you will find the hotel well situated, whether you brought your sailboard, hiking boots, or mountain bike. The decor is classically rustic, with lots of rock and natural wood, and Northwest Indian artworks and artifacts are displayed throughout the hotel. Huge windows in the lobby have superb views of the gorge. Of course, the river-view guest rooms are more expensive than the forest-view rooms (which overlook more parking lot

than forest), but these rooms are well worth the extra cost. There are also rooms with fireplaces.

1131 Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, WA 98648. ✆ **800/221-7117** or 509/427-7700. Fax 509/427-2547. www.skamania.com. 254 units. $119–$279 double; $229–$279 suite. Children 16 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted ($50 per night). **Amenities:** Restaurant (Northwest); lounge; indoor pool; 18-hole golf course; 2 tennis courts; exercise room; full-service spa; Jacuzzi; sauna; bike rentals; activities desk; business center; room service; massage; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Timberline Lodge ★★ Constructed during the Great Depression of the 1930s as a WPA project, this classic alpine ski lodge overflows with craftsmanship. The grand stone fireplace, huge exposed beams, and wide-plank floors of the lobby impress every first-time visitor. Woodcarvings, imaginative wrought-iron fixtures, hand-hooked rugs, and handmade furniture complete the rustic picture. Unfortunately, guest rooms, which vary considerably in size, are not as impressive as the public areas of the lodge. The smallest rooms lack private bathrooms, and windows in most rooms fail to take advantage of the phenomenal views that could be had here. However, you can always visit the Ram's Head lounge for a better view of Mount Hood.

Timberline, OR 97028. ✆ **800/547-1406** or 503/622-7979. Fax 503/622-0710. www.timberlinelodge.com. 70 units (10 with shared bathroom). $99–$115 double with shared bathroom; $150–$275 double with private bathroom. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (Northwest, American); 2 lounges; year-round outdoor pool; exercise room; Jacuzzi; sauna; children's ski programs; coin-op laundry. *In room (except those w/shared bath):* Dataport, Wi-Fi, hair dryer, iron.

WHERE TO DINE

Although I like to bring a picnic lunch and eat with a view, there are also some very good restaurants in the Columbia Gorge and on Mount Hood. The best places to eat are the dining rooms at Skamania Lodge and Timberline Lodge (see above).

Brian's Pourhouse ★★ ECLECTIC Located in an old house a few blocks up the hill from downtown Hood River, this restaurant is a casual, fun place with very creative food. In summer, the big deck is the place to eat, and any time of year, the stylish little bar area is a cozy spot for a cocktail or a local microbrew. The menu is highly eclectic and ranges from fish tacos to sesame-crusted ahi tuna served with a wasabi mashed potato–eggroll. Sure, you can get a good grilled rib-eye, but this is the place to try some bold new flavors.

606 Oak St. ✆ **541/387-4344.** www.brianspourhouse.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $11–$25. AE, MC, V. Summer, daily 5–11pm (shorter hours other months).

Celilo Restaurant ✪✪ NORTHWEST This utterly hip establishment is a sophisticated alternative to the homey restaurants that have long been popular in Hood River. Think timber-town natural-wood decor meets modern urban design. The concept of fresh and local drives the kitchen here, so you can count on the menu sticking to whatever is in season—luckily, that can cover a lot of territory in this fertile region. Dishes with house-made pasta are always a good bet, and, in the fall, you might get your noodles sauced with fresh chanterelle mushrooms. Lots of fresh herbs flavor many of the dishes here.

16 Oak St. ✆ **541/386-5710.** www.celilorestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $16–$25. AE, MC, V. Daily 11:30am–3pm and 5–9:30 or 10pm.

2 The Northern Oregon Coast

One of the most beautiful coastlines in the United States, the spectacular Oregon coast is this state's main tourist destination, and it offers countless summer vacation spots along its length. The closest beaches are less than 2 hours away from Portland and offer everything from rugged coves to long sandy beaches, artists' communities to classic family beach towns.

CANNON BEACH TO NEHALEM BAY

The quickest route from Portland to the Oregon coast (80 miles) is via U.S. 26, also called the **Sunset Highway.** If you've got kids with you, turn north at the junction with U.S. 101 and head into **Seaside,** the coast's most traditional beach town (beachside promenade, saltwater taffy, arcade games, the works).

Otherwise, head south and watch for the turnoff to **Cannon Beach** ✪✪✪, the artsiest little town on the Oregon coast. The town is packed with art galleries and interesting shops, and although Cannon Beach is quite touristy, it still has so much charm, you'll likely start scheming a way to retire here yourself.

Located just north of the town of Cannon Beach is **Ecola Beach State Park** ✪✪ (✆ **800/551-6949** or 503/436-2844; www.oregonstateparks.org), which provides some of the most spectacular views on the coast. Several trails offer a chance to walk a lush forest of old-growth spruce, hemlock, and Douglas fir. For great views to the south, head to the Ecola Point picnic area, which is to your left just

after you enter the park. A relatively easy 3-mile round-trip hiking trail connects this picnic area with Indian Beach.

Cannon Beach was named for a cannon that washed ashore here after the USS *Shark,* a military vessel, sank in 1849. Just offshore from the south end of town is **Haystack Rock** ★★, a massive 235-foot-tall island that is the most photographed rock on the coast. Rising up from the sand and waves at the low-tide line, Haystack Rock is a popular destination for beachcombers and tide-pool explorers.

Every summer in early June, Cannon Beach celebrates its **Sand Castle Festival,** a celebration that attracts numerous sand sculptors and thousands of appreciative viewers. Any time of year you'll find the winds here ideal for kite flying. However, forget about doing any swimming; the waters here, and all along the Oregon coast, are too cold and rough for swimming.

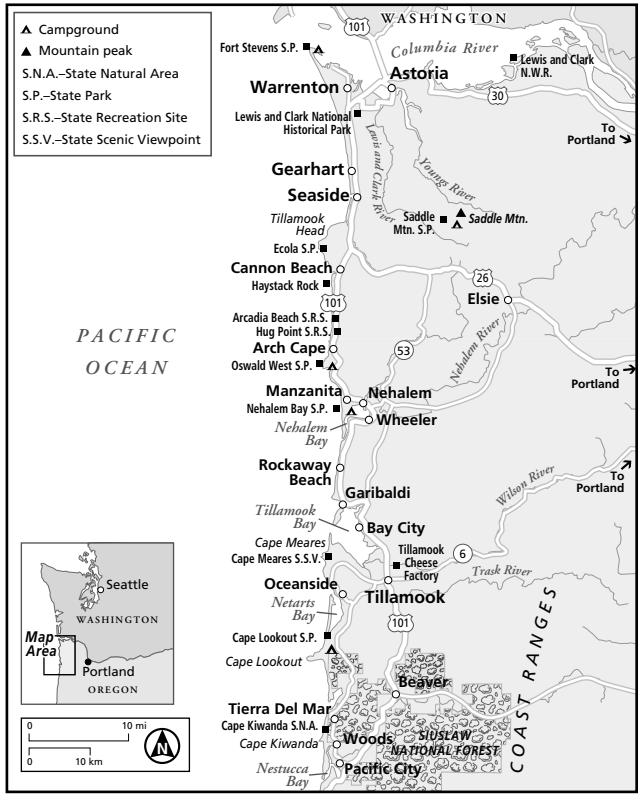
Heading south out of Cannon Beach on U.S. 101, watch for the **Arcadia Beach Wayside** ★★. This is one of the prettiest little beaches in the area, with haystack rocks and a headland that blocks the northwest winds in the summer months.

A little farther south, you'll come to **Hug Point State Recreation Site** ★★, with more headland-framed beach. Here you can also see an old stretch of the original coast highway. Although the old highway was mostly just the beach, here at Hug Point the road was blasted into a headland, thus hugging the point.

A little farther south you'll come to the rugged **Oswald West State Park** ★★ (✆ **800/551-6949** or 503/436-2844; www.oregonstateparks.org), named for the governor who promoted legislation to preserve all Oregon beaches as public property. The beach is in a cove that can be reached only by walking a few hundred yards through dense forest; once you're there, all you'll hear is the crashing of the surf. The beach is strewn with huge driftwood logs that give it a wild look. High bluffs rise up at both ends of the cove, and it is possible to hike to the top of them. There are plenty of picnic tables and a walk-in campground. This is also a popular surfing spot.

U.S. 101 continues south from Oswald West State Park and climbs up over **Neahkahnie Mountain** ★. Legend has it that at the base of this ocean-side mountain, the survivors of a wrecked Spanish galleon buried a fortune in gold. Keep your eyes open for elk, which frequently graze in the meadows here.

Just below this windswept mountain is the quiet beach town of **Manzanita** ★★. With Neahkahnie Mountain rising to the north, a long stretch of sandy beach fronting the town, and **Nehalem Bay**



State Park ★ (✆ **800/551-6949** or 503/368-5154; www.oregonstateparks.org) to the south of town, Manzanita is one of my favorite Oregon beach towns.

WHERE TO STAY

In Cannon Beach

Stephanie Inn ★★★ The Stephanie Inn is the most classically romantic inn on the Oregon coast—the perfect place for an anniversary or other special weekend away. With flower boxes beneath the windows and neatly manicured gardens by the entry, the inn is reminiscent of New England's country inns, but the beach out the back door is definitely of Pacific Northwest origin. Inside, the lobby feels warm and cozy with its river-rock fireplace, huge wood columns,

and beamed ceiling. The guest rooms, all individually decorated, are equally cozy, and most have double whirlpool tubs and gas fireplaces. The higher you go in the three-story inn, the better the views and the more spacious the outdoor spaces (patios, balconies, and decks). A bounteous breakfast buffet is served each morning, and complimentary afternoon wine and evening nightcaps are also served. Creative four-course prix-fixe dinners ($49) are served in the evening (reservations are required).

2740 S. Pacific St. (P.O. Box 219), Cannon Beach, OR 97110. ✆ **800/633-3466** or 503/436-2221. www.stephanie-inn.com. 50 units. $229–$459 double; $479–$509 suite. Rates include full breakfast. Children 13 and older are welcome. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (Northwest); access to nearby health club; courtesy shopping shuttle; room service; massage. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, Wi-Fi, free local calls, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

In Manzanita

Coast Cabins ★★ *Finds* These five modern cabins are set back a ways from the beach but are the most impressive cabins on the entire coast. Done in a sort of modern interpretation of Scandinavian cabins, these accommodations are designed as romantic getaways for couples. Two of the cabins are tall, two-story structures, and the second-floor bedrooms have walls of windows. The cabin interiors are well designed and artfully decorated, with such touches as Tibetan carpets, original art, and unusual lighting fixtures. Now, imagine the burnished glow of the cabins' cedar exteriors accented by lovely terraced perennial gardens, and you'll have an idea of just how the perfect getaway on the Oregon coast should look.

635 Laneda Ave., Manzanita, OR 97130. ✆ **503/368-7113.** www.coastcabins.com. 5 units. $155–$395 double. 2-night minimum on weekends and throughout the summer. AE, MC, V. Pets accepted ($30 deposit plus $25 per night). **Amenities:** Sauna. *In room:* TV/VCR/DVD, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, kitchen, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

WHERE TO DINE

In Cannon Beach

Newman's at 988 ★★ FRENCH/ITALIAN Chef/owner John Newman was for many years the executive chef at Cannon Beach's luxurious Stephanie Inn, and here, in his own restaurant, he continues to wow both new and long-time customers. The restaurant, inside a cottage, is small, dark, and very romantic, the perfect place for a special night out. The menu is short, but you can expect such delicacies as foie gras pasta with shaved black truffles, wild mushroom polenta, fresh fish with caviar butter, and lobster ravioli with hazelnuts and marsala-cream sauce.

988 S. Hemlock St. ✆ **503/436-1151.** www.newmansat988.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $19–$26. MC, V. Daily 5:30–9pm (closed Mon in winter).

Gower Street Bistro ★★ NEW AMERICAN This little restaurant is positively adorable. The white-tile floors, wicker chairs, white wainscoting, pressed-tin ceiling, and display case full of imported meats and cheese all set the scene for superb food. The quiches (served at brunch and dinner) are big, fat works of art that should not be missed, although I can never pass up the pulled-pork sandwich, which is the best I've had outside of North Carolina. At dinner, start with a charcuterie or cheese plate and then go for the chicken with calvados or the down-home meatloaf.

1116 S. Hemlock St. ✆ **503/436-2729.** www.gowerstreetbistro.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $7.50–$14 brunch, $14–$22 dinner. AE, MC, V. Summer daily 8am–3pm and 5–10pm; other months Thurs–Mon 9am–3pm and 5–9pm, Tues–Wed 5–9pm.

TILLAMOOK & THE THREE CAPES SCENIC LOOP

The other dramatic stretch of beach close to Portland is west of the dairy-farming town of Tillamook and is called the **Three Capes Scenic Loop** ★★. To reach this rugged stretch of coast, head west from Portland on U.S. 26 (Sunset Hwy.), and, about 25 miles west of Portland near the town of Banks, take Ore. 6 toward Tillamook. Allow about 2 hours to get to Tillamook from Portland.

Two miles north of **Tillamook** on U.S. 101, you can visit the **Tillamook Cheese Factory** ★, 4175 U.S. 101 N. (✆ **800/542-7290** or 503/815-1300; www.tillamookcheese.com). The Tillamook area is one of Oregon's main dairy-farming locations, and much of the milk is turned into cheddar cheese and butter. Today the factory is one of the most popular attractions on the Oregon coast. You can watch the cheese-making process through large windows, buy an ice-cream cone, and pick up an assortment of tasty cheeses for a picnic.

Just west of Tillamook is the start of the Three Capes Scenic Loop, which leads to Cape Meares, Cape Lookout, and Cape Kiwanda, all of which provide stunning vistas of rocky cliffs, misty mountains, and booming surf. As the name implies, this is a very scenic stretch of road, and there are plenty of places to stop and enjoy the views and the beaches.

Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint ★ perches high atop the cape, with the Cape Meares lighthouse just a short walk from the parking lot. This lighthouse, 200 feet above the water, was built in 1890. Today it has been replaced by an automated light a few feet

away. Be sure to visit the **octopus tree** here in the park. This Sitka spruce has been twisted and sculpted by harsh weather.

As you come down from the cape, you'll reach the village of **Oceanside** ★, which clings to the steep slopes above a small cove. One tavern, one restaurant, and one cafe are the only commercial establishments, and that's the way folks here like it. If you walk north along the beach, you'll find a pedestrian tunnel through the headland that protects this hillside community. Through the tunnel is another beautiful stretch of beach.

South of Oceanside, the road runs along a flat stretch of beach before reaching **Cape Lookout State Park** ★★ (✆ **800/551-6949** or 503/842-4981; www.oregonstateparks.org). Cape Lookout, a steep forested ridge jutting out into the Pacific, is an excellent place for whale-watching in the spring. A trail leads out to the end of the point from either the main (lower) parking area or the parking area at the top of the ridge. From the upper parking lot, it is a 5-mile round-trip hike to the end of the point.

South of Cape Lookout you come to **Pacific City** and **Cape Kiwanda** ★★, the last of the three capes on this scenic loop. Cape Kiwanda, a state natural area, is a sandstone headland backed by a huge sand dune. It's fun to climb to the top and then run down. From the top of this giant dune, it is sometimes possible to spot spouting gray whales. Just offshore is another **Haystack Rock** ★★, every bit as picturesque as the one in Cannon Beach. Because this huge rock breaks the waves, the beach here is used by beach-launched dories, as well as surfers. The Pelican Pub & Brewery right on the beach here makes a good spot for dinner before heading back to Portland.

To return to Portland from Pacific City, follow signs to U.S. 101 and head north to **Tillamook.** From there, just retrace your outbound route by taking Ore. 6 back to U.S. 26.

WHERE TO STAY

Inn at Cape Kiwanda ★★ *Finds* Although it's across the street from the beach (and Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area), this modern cedar-shingled three-story hotel has one of the best views on the Oregon coast: Directly offshore rises Haystack Rock, a huge jug-handled monolith. Since a great view isn't quite enough, the hotel was designed with luxurious, contemporary rooms, all of which have balconies and fireplaces. A few have whirlpool tubs, and there is also a very luxurious suite. The corner rooms are my favorites. The inn also rents out modern timeshare cottages right on the beach. The inn

is affiliated with the Pelican Pub & Brewery, across the street; on the inn's ground floor are an art gallery and an espresso bar.

33105 Cape Kiwanda Dr., Pacific City, OR 97135. ✆ **888/965-7001** or 503/965-7001. Fax 503/965-7002. www.innatcapekiwanda.com. 35 units. $129–$279 double; $209–$329 suite. 2-night minimum on holidays, and weekends July–Aug. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted ($20). **Amenities:** Restaurant (brewpub); lounge; exercise room; bike rentals; concierge; business center; room service; coin-op laundry. *In room:* TV/DVD, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer.

WHERE TO DINE

Pelican Pub & Brewery ✪ PUB FOOD With massive Haystack Rock looming just offshore and the huge dune of Cape Kiwanda just up the beach, this oceanfront brewpub claims the best view of any pub in Oregon. There's a good selection of brews, including Tsunami Stout and my personal favorite, the Doryman's Dark Ale. Sandwiches, burgers, great fish and chips, and pizzas are the menu mainstays here. Kids are welcome, and the location makes this a great spot for a meal if you're hanging out on the beach all day.

33180 Cape Kiwanda Dr. ✆ **503/965-7007.** www.pelicanbrewery.com. Main courses $9–$26. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 8am–10pm; Fri–Sat 8am–11pm.

3 Winery Tours

For several decades now, Oregon wines, particularly pinot noirs, have been winning awards. This isn't surprising when you consider that Oregon is on the same latitude as the wine-growing regions of France. The climate is also very similar—cool, wet winters and springs and long, dry summers with warm days and cool nights. These are ideal conditions for growing wine grapes, and local vineyards are making the most of a good situation.

For more information about the Oregon wine scene, including a calendar of winery events, pick up a copy of *Oregon Wine Press,* a monthly newspaper (available at area wine shops and wineries), or contact ***Oregon Wine Press,*** P.O. Box 727, McMinnville, OR 97128 (✆ **503/883-6266;** www.oregonwinepress.com). **Willamette Valley Wineries,** P.O. Box 25162, Portland, OR 97298 (✆ **503/646-2985;** www.willamettewines.com), a regional wineries association, publishes a free map and guide to the local wineries. You can pick up a copy at almost any area winery.

More than 150 wineries are within an hour's drive of Portland, and you could easily spend weeks or even months getting to know them (I know I have). However, for an afternoon of wine tasting, I

suggest visiting only three or four wineries. A trip through wine country is a chance not only to sample a wide range of wines, but also to see the fertile valleys that lured pioneers across the Oregon Trail. I recommend taking along a picnic lunch, which you can, of course, supplement with a wine purchase. Most wineries have picnic tables, and many of them have lovely views. During the summer many wineries stage weekend festivals that include live music.

Start a Willamette Valley wine tour by taking U.S. 26 west from Portland to Ore. 217. Drive south to the Scholls Ferry Road exit (Ore. 210), and continue southwest on Scholls Ferry Road for about 8 miles to **Ponzi Vineyards,** 14665 SW Winery Lane (✆ **503/628-1227;** www.ponziwines.com), which was one of the first wineries in Oregon. Nearby you can stop at **Hoffman Farms Store,** 18407 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (✆ **503/628-1436;** www.hoffmanfarmsstore.com), where in the summer, you can buy fresh berries, or **Oregon Heritage Farms,** 22801 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (✆ **503/628-2775;** www.oregonheritagefarms.com), which sells apples and cider in the autumn months. Follow signs toward Newberg, and you'll soon come to **Smith Berry Barn Farm and Garden Market,** 24500 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (✆ **503/628-2172;** www.smithberrybarn.com), where you can get fresh berries in summer, plus gourmet foods and lots more. Across the street from this big red barn, you'll find the **South Store Café,** 24485 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (✆ **503/628-1920**), my favorite area lunch spot. Scholls Ferry Road becomes Hillsboro Highway (Ore. 219) at this point and leads over Chehalem Mountain to the heart of the wine country. A little ways up this road, you'll come to **Mountainside Lavender Farm,** 17805 SW Hillsboro Hwy. (✆ **503/936-6744;** www.mountainsidelavender.com), where you can pick your own lavender during the summer.

In Newberg, turn west on Ore. 99W, and in Dundee, you'll find **Dobbes Family Estate** (✆ **800/566-8143** or 503/538-1141; www.dobbesfamilyestate.com), which makes a wide range of excellent wines, and **Argyle Winery,** 691 Ore. 99W, Dundee (✆ **888/4-ARGYLE** or 503/538-8520; www.argylewinery.com), which is well known for its sparkling wines. From the highway, head up into the hills to **Torii Mor Winery,** 18325 NE Fairview Dr. (✆ **503/538-2279;** www.toriimorwinery.com), and **Lange Estate Winery & Vineyards,** 18380 NE Buena Vista Rd. (✆ **503/538-6476;** www.langewinery.com), two of the area's top pinot noir producers.

Continue a little past Dundee, and you can visit three of the most highly regarded wineries in the state: **Archery Summit,** 18599 NE

Archery Summit Rd., Dayton (✆ **503/864-4300;** www.archerysummit.com); **Domaine Drouhin Oregon,** 6750 Breyman Orchards Rd., Dayton (✆ **503/864-2700;** www.domainedrouhin.com); and **Domaine Serene,** 6555 Hilltop Lane, Dayton (✆ **866/864-6555** or 503/864-4600; www.domaineserene.com). All three of these wineries produce world-class pinot noir.

In the town of Carlton, 7 miles north of McMinnville on Ore. 47, you'll find a concentration of good wineries. At **The Tasting Room,** 105 W. Main St. (✆ **503/852-6733;** www.pinot-noir.com), you can taste wines from wineries that are not usually open to the public. Most wines featured here are from wineries in the immediate vicinity of Carlton. Also here in Carlton, you'll find the **Carlton Winemakers Studio,** 801 N. Scott St. (✆ **503/852-6100;** www.winemakersstudio.com), which represents numerous wineries, including Andrew Rich Wines, Hamacher Wines, and Domaine Meriwether. Adjacent to this latter winery, you'll find **Cana's Feast Winery,** 750 Lincoln St. (✆ **503/852-0002;** www.canasfeastwinery.com), which is known for its big, full-bodied red wines. A few blocks away, you can stop in at **Tyrus Evan/The Depot,** 120 N. Pine St. (✆ **503/852-7010**), which specializes in Bordeaux and Rhone varietals. Outside the town of Yamhill, don't miss the impressive **Willakenzie Estate,** 19143 NE Laughlin Rd., Yamhill (✆ **888/953-9463** or 503/662-3280; www.willakenzie.com), or **Penner-Ash Wine Cellars,** 15771 NE Ribbon Ridge Rd. (✆ **503/554-5545;** www.pennerash.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Abbey Road Farm ★★ This is one of the most unusual bed-and-breakfast inns in Oregon and should be your first choice for a wine-country getaway. The large and luxurious guest rooms are located in a building that was constructed from three large metal silos. Now, lest you think you'll be sleeping in a barn, let me assure you that the silos have been transformed into an architectural gem of a building, a testament to the imagination of owners John and Judi Stuart. The large guest rooms have whirlpool tubs, memory-foam beds, and bucolic views. When you're not out wine touring, you can visit with the goats, sheep, llamas, chickens, and other farm animals that live here.

10501 NE Abbey Rd., Carlton, OR 97111. ✆ **503/852-6278.** www.abbeyroadfarm.com. 5 units. $195–$225 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, MC, V. 2-night minimum on weekends. No children. **Amenities:** Concierge. *In room:* A/C, hair dryer, iron. Closed Dec–Feb.

Black Walnut Inn ★★★ Perched high in the Red Hills of Dundee with a view that seems to take in all of Oregon wine country, this inn looks as though it had been transported here from Tuscany. Guest rooms are luxuriously homey and gorgeously decorated, and some are absolutely huge. Some are decorated with antique furnishings and others are more contemporary, so there's a room that's just right for nearly anyone. Some rooms have a soaking tub and all have a balcony or patio. The gardens and patios here are the perfect place to sip a glass of wine at sunset.

9600 NE Worden Hill Rd., Dundee, OR 97115. ✆ **866/429-4114** or 503/429-4114. Fax 503/538-4194. www.blackwalnut-inn.com. 9 units. $295–$525 suite. Rates include full breakfast. Children 12 and older accepted. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Concierge; business center; massage. *In room:* A/C, TV, high-speed Internet access, Wi-Fi, free local calls, hair dryer, iron.

WHERE TO DINE

Cuvée ★★ FRENCH Chef/owner Gilbert Henry had long established himself as one of the top toques in Portland before moving to the small town of Carlton in the heart of the wine country. Here Henry's classic French cuisine is the perfect foil for fine wines from Carlton-area wineries. The menu leans toward seafood dishes, which go well with local pinot gris, but there's also usually a lamb dish (perhaps Moroccan lamb tagine) on the menu. Be sure to start your meal with some oysters or sautéed wild mushrooms and local pinot gris or chardonnay.

214 W. Main St., Carlton. ✆ **866/421-1347** or 503/852-6555. www.cuveedining.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $10–$13 lunch, $20–$23 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Wed–Fri 5:30–9:30pm; Sat noon–3pm and 5:30–9:30pm; Sun noon–3pm and 5–8pm.

The Joel Palmer House ★★★ FRENCH/NORTHWEST If you love mushrooms in all their earthy guises, then in this downtown Dayton restaurant, east of McMinnville, you will find your culinary nirvana. Chef/owner Jack Czarnecki is a man obsessed with mushrooms, and nearly every dish has mushrooms in it. Start your meal with the extraordinary wild-mushroom soup made with suillis mushrooms, then move on to the filet mignon with porcini sauce or the beef Stroganoff with wild mushrooms. The rack of lamb with a hazelnut-pepper sauce, although it lacks mushrooms, is a quintessential wine-country entree. Mushroom lovers will be in good hands if they opt for the "Jack's Mushroom Madness" prix-fixe dinner. The extensive wine list features Oregon wines. The restaurant is in a house built in the 1850s and is quite formal.

600 Ferry St., Dayton. ✆ **503/864-2995.** www.joelpalmerhouse.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses $29–$37; prix fixe $75. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–9pm; closed Jan to early Feb.

The Painted Lady ✰✰ FRENCH/NORTHWEST Located just off Ore. 99W in a restored Victorian home in downtown Newberg, the Painted Lady brings sophistication and creativity to a town that has long thought of Chinese and Mexican as exotic foods. Chef/owner Allen Routt, whose credentials include study at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, serves three-course prix fixe dinners that, however, offer plenty of choices. The menu changes with the seasons, but a recent night featured, among many other offerings, corn bisque with goat-cheese crème; chanterelle-mushroom ragout served over gnocchi; herb-crusted Oregon albacore; roast duck breast with wild mushrooms and fig *jus;* and for dessert, chevre cheesecake with Oregon cherries.

201 S. College St., Newberg. ✆ **503/538-3850.** www.thepaintedladyrestaurant.com. Reservations highly recommended. Prix fixe menus $45–$60. AE, DISC, MC, V. Wed–Sun 5–10pm.

Tina's ✰✰ CONTINENTAL/NORTHWEST Despite its rather small and nondescript building right on the highway in Dundee, Tina's has long been one of the Yamhill County wine country's premier restaurants, and with its contemporary menu and decor, it's my favorite place to eat in the area. The menu changes regularly and usually has only six to eight entrees and as many appetizers. However, a balance between the traditional (braised short ribs) and the less familiar (pan-roasted duck breast with rice pancake and green-peppercorn sauce) keeps diners content. There are usually almost as many desserts available as there are entrees, and the wine selection, of course, emphasizes local wines.

760 Ore. 99W, Dundee. ✆ **503/538-8880.** www.tinasdundee.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $8–$10 lunch, $22–$30 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–9pm; Sat–Sun 5–9pm.

4 Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

Named in 1792 by Capt. George Vancouver for his friend Baron St. Helens, Mount St. Helens was once considered the most perfect of the Cascade peaks, a snow-covered cone rising above lush forests. However, on May 18, 1980, all that changed when Mount St. Helens erupted with a violent explosion that was previously unknown in modern times.

The eruption blew out the side of the volcano and removed the top 1,300 feet of the peak, causing the largest landslide in recorded history. This blast is estimated to have traveled at up to 650 mph, with air temperatures of up to 800°F (425°C). The eruption also sent more than 540 million tons of ash nearly 16 miles into the atmosphere. This massive volume of ash rained down on an area of 22,000 square miles and could be measured as far away as Denver.

Today the volcano and 110,000 acres of both devastated and undisturbed forests have been preserved as Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Several visitor centers provide information on the eruption and the subsequent changes that have taken place here. At press time, the volcano was once again active, with a new cone forming inside the crater. This renewed activity, though not as dramatic as the 1980 eruption, makes Mount St. Helens the only active volcano in the contiguous United States.

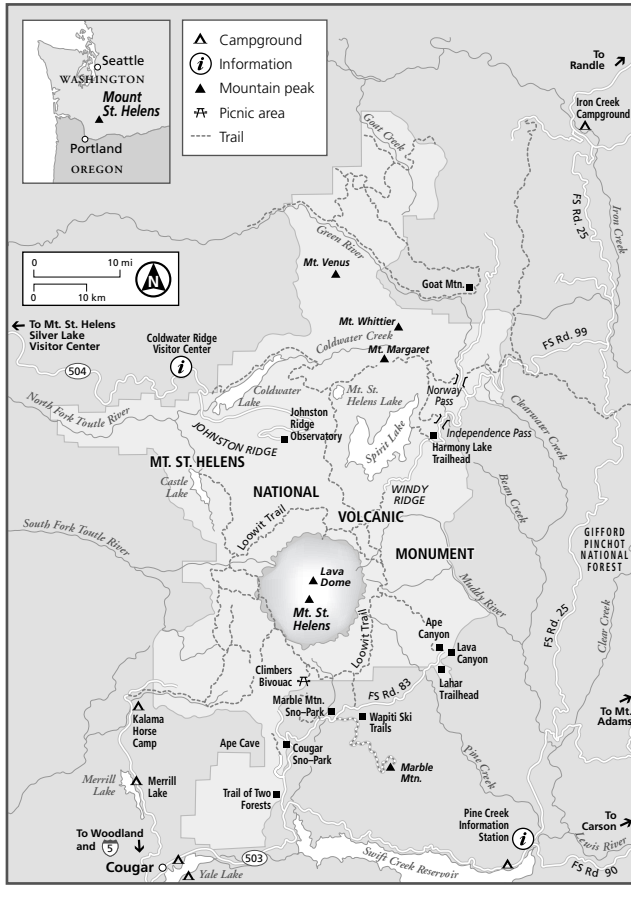
The monument is located roughly 90 miles north of Portland off I-5 (take the Castle Rock exit). Admission to the monument is $8 for adults and free for children 15 and under. If you just want to park at one of the monument's trail heads and go for a hike, all you need is a valid Northwest Forest Pass, which costs $5 per car per day. If it's winter, you'll need a Sno-Park Permit ($8–$9 per day).

For more information on the national monument, contact **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument,** 42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd., Amboy, WA 98601 (✆ **360/449-7800;** www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm).

The best place to start an exploration of the monument is the **Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake** (✆ **360/274-0962;** www.parks.wa.gov/mountsthelens.asp), which is operated by Washington State Parks and is located at Silver Lake, 5 miles east of Castle Rock on Wash. 504. The visitor center houses extensive exhibits on the eruption and its effects on the region. May through September, it's open daily from 9am to 5pm (until 4pm in other months). Admission is $3 for adults, $1 for children 7 to 17, and free for children 6 and under. A family pass is $8.

Continuing east from the visitor center, at milepost 27, you'll come to the **Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center** (✆ **360/274-7750;** www.mt-st-helens.com). This is primarily a snack bar and takeoff site for 30-minute helicopter flights over Mount St. Helens ($129 with a three-person minimum), but it also has great views. From June to August the center is open daily from 9am to 9pm; April through May and September through October, it's open daily 10am

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument



to 6pm; and November through March, it's open daily 10:30am to 4:30pm.

A few miles farther, just past milepost 33, is the **Charles W. Bingham Forest Learning Center** (✆ **360/414-3439**), open mid-May through mid-October daily from 10am to 6pm (until 5pm in Oct). This is primarily a promotional center for the timber industry, but, in a theater designed to resemble an ash-covered landscape, you can watch a short, fascinating video about the eruption. Outside both the Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center and the Forest Learning Center,

you can usually see numerous elk on the floor of the Toutle River Valley far below.

Of the many visitor centers, none offers a more awe-inspiring view than that from the **Johnston Ridge Observatory** (✆ **360/274-2140**), at the eastern end of Wash. 504. Built into the mountainside and designed to blend into the landscape, this observatory houses the equipment that is still used to monitor activity within Mount St. Helens. The observatory is open from mid-May to October, daily from 10am to 6pm. Admission is $8 for persons 16 and older, and free for anyone age 15 and under. If you're up for a bit of hiking, the best choice on this side of the monument is the **Boundary Ridge Trail,** which heads east from the Johnston Ridge Observatory, with a jaw-dropping view of the blast zone the entire way. This trail leads for many miles across the monument, so you can hike as much or as little as you want. There is a good turnaround point about 1 mile out from the observatory.

For a different perspective on the devastation wrought by Mount St. Helens's eruption, drive around to the mountain's east side and take the road up to Windy Ridge. Although it takes a couple of hours longer to get to this side of the mountain, you will be rewarded with equally amazing views, better hiking opportunities, and smaller crowds. To reach the east side of the mountain, take U.S. 12 east from exit 68 off I-5. In Randle, head south on Forest Road 25 and watch for Forest Road 99, the road to the Windy Ridge Viewpoint. This road crosses many miles of blown-down trees that were felled by a single blast, a reminder of the awesome power of nature. More than a quarter century after the eruption, life is slowly returning to the devastated forest. At the **Windy Ridge Viewpoint,** visitors get one of the best close-up views of the crater. A long staircase climbs 220 feet up the hill above the parking area for even better views. Below Windy Ridge lies Spirit Lake, once one of the most popular summer vacation spots in the Washington Cascades. Today the lake is desolate and lifeless. The 1-mile **Harmony Trail** leads down to the shore of Spirit Lake and is a very worthwhile hike; just keep in mind that it's a 600-foot climb back up to the trail head parking lot.

If you're an experienced hiker in good physical condition, the climb to the summit of Mount St. Helens is a must. From the trail head on the south side of the mountain, the hike takes 8 to 10 hours and can require an ice ax. Climbing permits, which cost $22 between April and October and are free other months, are required

year-round and are only available online (**www.mshinstitute.org**). Because the climb is very popular, you'll need to make a reservation. Reservations are taken beginning on February 1, and summer weekends book up fast. Between November 1 and March 31, no reservation is necessary—but expect lots of snow. Due to volcanic activity in recent years, the rim is sometimes closed to hikers, so be sure to check the current status before planning this climb.

The south side of the monument was the least affected by the eruption, and consequently does not offer the dramatic scenes of devastation as on the east and west sides. However, this area offers some good hiking and a couple of very interesting volcanic features. The first one you'll come to is the **Ape Cave,** a lava tube that was formed 1,900 years ago when lava poured from the volcano. When the lava finally stopped flowing, it left a 2-mile-long cave that is the longest continuous lava tube in the Western Hemisphere. At the Ape's Headquarters, you can join a regular ranger-led exploration of the cave or rent a lantern for exploring the cave on your own. This center is open daily from 10:30am to 5pm between late June to Labor Day.

Of the trails on this side of the monument, the **Lava Canyon Trail** is the most fascinating. It follows a canyon that was unearthed by a mudflow that swept down this side of the mountain after the eruption. However, in 2007, this trail was not accessible due to a washout on the road leading to the trail head.

Hikers will find many other hiking trails within the monument, some in blast zones and some in forests that were left undamaged by the eruption. Ask at any visitor center for trail information.

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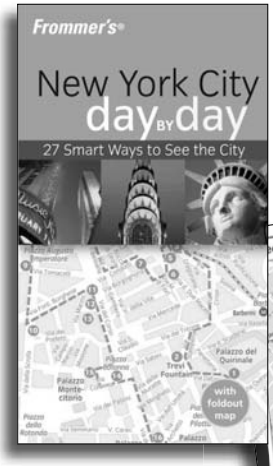

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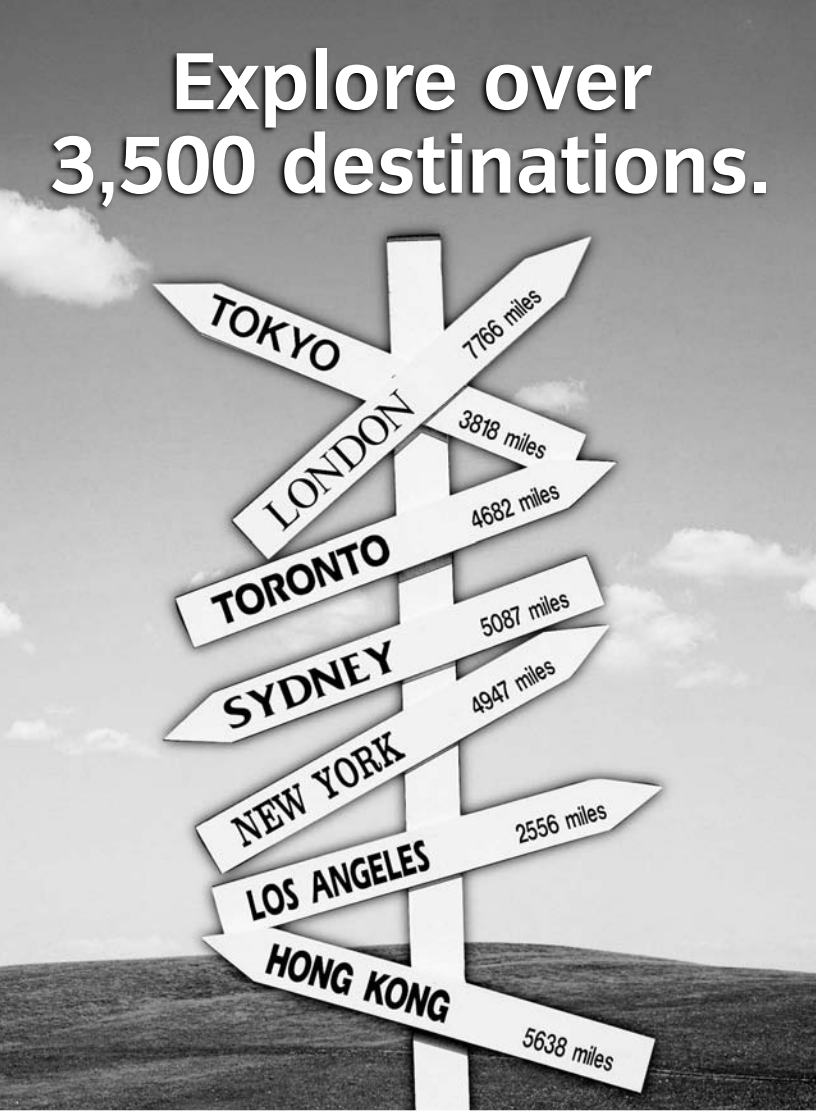

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There's a parking lot where my ocean view should be.

À la place de la vue sur l'océan, me voilà avec une vue sur un parking.

Anstatt Meerblick habe ich Sicht auf einen Parkplatz.

Al posto della vista sull'oceano c'è un parcheggio.

No tengo vista al mar porque hay un parque de estacionamiento.

Há um parque de estacionamento onde deveria estar a minha vista do oceano.

Ett parkeringsområde har byggts på den plats där min utsikt över oceanen borde vara.

Er ligt een parkeerterrein waar mijn zee uitzicht zou moeten zijn.

هنالك موقف للسيارات مكان ما وجب ان يكون المنظر الخلاب المطل على المحيط .

眼前に広がる紺碧の海・・・じゃない。窓の外は駐車場！

停车场的位置应该是我的海景所在。

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